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CITY LEADER FACES TOUGH TASK AT THE POLLS COME MAY 5

# Gilbey rivals strengthen as students eye a shock

**COUNTDOWN TO MAY 5**

By **JILL HURST**

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**LIBERAL** Democrats have backed a student campaign to oust the leader of Canterbury City Council.

Party spokesman Guy Voizey said it was time to end "Chairman Mao-style politics" and urged students to vote in the May elections.

Labour and the Lib Dems are to stand students against council leader John Gilbey as the fight for the Blean Forest ward intensifies.

The ward incorporates the University of Kent at Canterbury campus – home to 3,720 students who are eligible to vote. Traditionally, turnout in council elections has been poor, but Kent Union says it expected numbers to rise after launching a student voting campaign.

Cllr Gilbey, who holds the seat with fellow Tory Hazel McCabe, said he welcomed democratic challenges.

"It's not just a matter of getting elected but what you do when you've been elected. There's a lot of work involved," he said.

"Hazel and I have worked in tandem for eight years and believe we are best served to represent everyone, including students."

According to Sam Kennedy, vice-president at Kent Union, students are more aware of the power of their votes.

He said: "People are making decisions that affect us. Mobilising the student vote means we can begin to have more of a say. Taking the Blean Forest seat could prove symbolic."

The Lib Dems expect to announce their candidate list shortly. Mr Voizey said the party wanted a fairer distribution of power.

"John Gilbey got elected on the back of the

CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE



## VIOLET TAKES OVER THE TITLE OF BRITAIN'S OLDEST PERSON

For full story see inside

## Highlanders clear fighters in battle

INFANTRY soldiers from Canterbury have cleared fighters from an area of Helmand province, in one of their final operations.

Four enemy were killed and two taken prisoner in the assault.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders worked with their partners from the 2nd Kandak Afghan Uniformed Police to conduct the 'advance to contact' – an operation to engage enemy fighters in an area known as Shindad Mandah, north of Patrol Base Attal in Lashkar Gah.

**FULL STORY – PAGE 2**

## Pilot sees a better future after op

A RETIRED hovercraft pilot from Seasalter is one of the first patients to see more clearly, thanks to cataract surgery now being performed at the new Estuary View Medical Centre in Whitstable.

Grandad Brian Maflin, 70, was one of about 20 patients who benefited from having the 20-minute operation in the new theatre suite, last Saturday.

He said: "When I heard there was a new service starting at Estuary View, right on my doorstep, it sounded excellent. I was totally impressed from start to finish."

**FULL STORY – PAGE 3**



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# Our soldiers clear Afghan insurgents

By **NICK AMES**

[nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk)

INFANTRY soldiers from Canterbury have cleared fighters from an area of Helmand province, in one of their final operations.

Four enemy were killed and two taken prisoner in the assault.

The Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders worked with their partners from the 2nd Kandak Afghan Uniformed Police to conduct the 'advance to contact' – an operation to engage enemy fighters in an area known as Shindac Mandah, north of Patrol Base Attal in Lashkar Gah.

Troops from Delta Company have been in Helmand since September, 2010, mentoring the Afghan police officers who are taking over security responsibilities in the area.

They return home in April.

## Under attack

As the operation began, a combined force of more than 100 men from the Argylls and the Afghan police headed north toward an area known to be held by insurgents.

They moved north, stopping for chai (tea) and discussing the forthcoming harvest and plans for a new school. But then things began to change.

Families were seen hurriedly leaving compounds and the fields were empty of workers. Before long the British soldiers and police were engaged from five separate firing points.

The insurgent attack was well organised, and although the firing points were far apart, they attacked Delta Company troops simultaneously.

But the troops and police returned an overwhelming weight of fire into the insurgent firing points.

The men of Delta Company have come under fire many times in recent months and know the ground well.

Soon the company commander, Major Nick Wight-Boycott, had confirmed the location of all the firing points and was able to co-ordinate a plan with his Fire Support Team to suppress the insurgent positions with artillery fire before sending his



**RETURNING FIRE:** Delta company fight back against Afghan insurgents

troops in. One by one, the insurgent positions were cleared.

In the west, Lieutenant Luke McDonagh and his men ambushed two insurgents attempting to abandon their position.

One insurgent died there, the other was injured. Lt McDonagh's men gave life-saving treatment to the injured insurgent fighter, before a helicopter was called to evacuate him to hospital in Camp Bastion.

As Sgt Kerr and his platoon cleared the positions, killing the insurgents with rifle fire and bayonet, they were attacked by machine gun fire and rocket-propelled grenades.

A helicopter was called in which

identified the position and solved the problem by firing a hellfire missile.

The air support passed a message to Maj Wight-Boycott that remaining insurgents could be seen recovering their dead to the north.

Once more, Delta Company pushed on, forcing the insurgents to flee.

Major Nick Wight-Boycott said: "The operation was a significant blow to the insurgency."

"The combination of such aggressive patrols targeting the insurgency directly, with increased development and support of the civilian population, has seen the insurgents' support base and ability to operate considerably eroded."



**TEAM WORK:** Lt Luke McDonagh, and left, Major Nick Wight-Boycott, brief Afghan police officers

# Vi, 111, now oldest person in Britain

By CHRIS MURPHY

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A 111-year-old Whitstable woman has become the oldest person in Britain, following the death of a 112-year-old in Bedfordshire.

Now Violet Wood has taken over the mantle after celebrating her birthday last September with family and friends.

She lives at the St Martin's care home in Joy Lane, Whitstable, and took over the title from former dressmaker Margaret Fish, who died just five days after her 112th birthday.

She was born in 1899 and like Violet, has seen her life span three centuries.

After being born when Queen Victoria was on the throne, Violet now has five generations of family helping her get through life's tribulations.

At the home, she said: "God has allowed me to live this long, so I must have done something right."

Her son David Wood, 86, said: "My mother had always put her long life down to hard work and eating only good food.

"She was born in the middle of Graveney marshes. Her father, James Hodges, was a shepherd and foreman for farmer GW Finn and Sons, and she learned how to live off the land.

"My mother knew fresh food was the only way to go, and she often tells us the secret of long life was proper decent fresh food, and none of the rubbish you can get these days.

"It is something I have also followed and so has my wife Freda, who is 87. We have been married for 65 years, and never go into these fast-food places.

"It has worked for my mother and it is working for us too. I am her only son, but feel as fit as a fiddle – and that has to be down to her."

He said his father Harry died in the 1980s. David said: "My mum was at school and my dad was the local milkman in Graveney and that's how



**OLDEST BRIT:** Violet Wood, celebrating her 111th birthday with staff and friends at St Martin's care home in Whitstable

they met. The Hodge and Wood family were quite well known in the village, and so this was a good match."

Violet has also lived through two world wars. During the first she was at school and knew little about it, but in the second she handled the valuable delivery of food to shops in Faversham.

David said: "My mother used the horse and cart to take food to the stores in Faversham, a few miles away. On more than one occasion she said she was going along the road when dogfights broke out above her. It was a scary time."

David said Violet's first and only real love was the land. "She lived to work, and when she wasn't working the fields, she was in her garden growing all her own vegetables. She always insisted on fresh."

Vi, as she is known in the home, loves to talk about her younger days. She still remembers the pet dog they won at a fair, and later had to destroy because they couldn't take it when they moved house.

Home manager Jackie White said: "Another occasion she told us about was when she was sitting on her own mother's lap and there was an almighty bang, and piles of soot from the chimney fell and landed in their front room, covering everything.

"She also loves talking about working on the land, which she adored."

The world's oldest person is Besse Cooper who has reached 114, and she lives in America.

## Eye surgery a clear winner

A RETIRED hovercraft pilot from Seasalter is one of the first patients to see more clearly, thanks to cataract surgery now being performed at Estuary View Medical Centre in Whitstable.

Grandad Brian Maflin, 70, was one of about 20 patients who benefited from having the 20-minute operation in the new theatre suite, equipped with the latest state-of-the-art technology last Saturday.

The former marine described the experience, which was carried out just a few minutes' drive from his Seasalter home, as "exceptional".

Cataracts are cloudy patches in the lens of the eye and the most common cause of vision impairment in the world.

During the operation, surgeons make a small incision at the side of the cornea, remove the cloudy lens and replace it with an artificial alternative, called an intraocular lens.

Mr Maflin, who had been suffering from cataracts for about six years, was eager to improve his sight so he can continue to drive and visit his daughters and five-year-old grandson in the New Forest.

He said: "I was offered the choice of where to have my operation. When I heard there was a new service starting at Estuary View, right on my doorstep, it sounded excellent.

"I was totally impressed from start to finish. I was made to feel thoroughly welcome."

"There's always a little apprehen-

sion when you are talking about your sight, because it's so precious, however I was put at ease.

"My surgeon talked to me all the way through the operation and I had complete confidence."

"I went in just before 10am, was back in the recovery room by 10.15am and home by 10.30am."

"I've been told I have a slight cataract in the other eye and I'm so impressed I have no hesitation in going back."

"I'm going to have both done within five weeks."

Whitstable Medical Practice senior partner, Dr John Ribchester, said: "We are delighted to be able to offer cataract surgery in Whitstable in a pleasant environment for patients."

## Student voting campaign will target Gilbey

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

lowest number of votes of any single councillor," he said. "Yet he is basically deciding what's happening as the leader of the majority group. It's time to put an end to Chairman Mao-style politics"

Labour candidate and UKC student Liam Preston, 25, will contest the Blean Forest seat.

"This is a chance for young people to have a voice," said the British Youth Council chairman. "The more you use your vote the more they [politicians] will have to listen. We certainly intend to give Cllr Gilbey a run for his money. At the very least it will force him to look at the needs of a demographic other than his own."

Just 18 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote in the last Blean Forest election with the Conservatives polling a winning vote of 1,185.

The Lib Dems collectively took 495 votes, followed by Labour's 281 votes.

But the May election falls during the Easter holidays, when many students will be away. Kent Union said it was encouraging students to vote by post.

City and parish elections will place on Thursday, May 5. A referendum on the voting system will also be held on this day. To be eligible to vote you must register with the council by April 14. Postal vote applications must also be received by this date.

Call electoral services on 01227 862003; email [electorall.services@canterbury.gov.uk](mailto:electorall.services@canterbury.gov.uk); or write to Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury, CT1 1YW.



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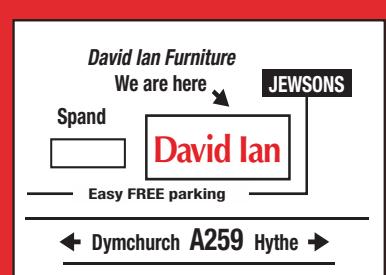
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# Party's top brass clash over battle of Medway

## EXCLUSIVE

By JILL HURST

jill.hurst@kosmedia.co.uk

A POLITICAL dog-fight has broken out as the Conservatives and Labour battle for power in Medway.

Labour was wiped off Kent's political map at last year's general election, with every seat now in Conservative hands and the party has eyeballed the district, home to three MPs, as key to its resurrection.

Shadow chancellor, Ed Balls, recently visited Gillingham and more high-profile visits are expected ahead of the May council elections.

The visit has prompted the Conservative Party's chairman, Baroness Sayeed Warsi, to get involved.

"The Conservatives in Medway are protecting vital frontline services for more than a quarter of a million residents," she said.

"Labour left the region in an economic mess and we will be fighting for every Conservative vote."

It followed a rallying cry from Mr Balls on a visit to MidKent College to deliver a keynote speech to party supporters.

"We had some really good MPs [in Medway] and they took a pounding," he said during the rally. "We took a hit and we have to put our hands up to that."

"But without Medway and other seats in the South East we can't regain power. Winning back trust is a priority."

Mr Balls claimed the Medway regeneration project had "gone into reverse" since Labour had left office and warned without it the local economy would continue to slow down.

And the former education secretary lambasted the Government's decision to "pull the plug" on the Building Schools for the Future project, branding it "very unfair on governors, parents and children".

"Economically it doesn't make any sense," he told more than 100 party members.

"Construction firms were relying on the schools contracts at a time when fewer hous-



**WAR OF WORDS:** Labour's Ed Balls and Tory Party chairman Baroness Sayeed Warsi

es were being built. It was keeping people in jobs and creating apprenticeships. It's a decision that's served an unfair burden on the taxpayer. People voted for cuts but not on the scale they have been and not as fast."

Rehman Chishti, MP for Gillingham and Rainham, branded Mr Balls' visit a cynical marketing ploy.

### Eligible

"Medway is my home; it's where I live, grew up and went to school," he said. "To Ed Balls Medway simply represents target seats – constituencies Labour want to win back."

The Medway electorate made it quite clear they'd had enough of them at the general election when Ed Balls' government left our country on the brink of bankruptcy."

Medway council elections are due to take place in 22 wards and 11 parishes on Thursday, May 5.

Meanwhile, Canterbury City Council's Conservative leader faces a threat from disgruntled students.

Both Labour and the Liberal Democrats are set to stand a student against council

leader John Gilbey in his Blean Forest ward.

The constituency incorporates the University of Kent's Canterbury campus – home to 3,720 students who are eligible to vote.

Traditionally turn-out in council elections has been poor but the student union says it expected numbers to rise after launching a student voting campaign.

Councillor Gilbey, who holds the seat with fellow Tory, Hazel McCabe, said he welcomed democratic challenges.

## Education chiefs bemoan huge cuts to their budgets

A UNIVERSITY and a college in Kent have been named as the biggest casualties in government funding cuts for education in the South East.

North West Kent College of Technology was hardest hit, seeing its funding from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) slashed by 19.2 per cent.

And the vice-chancellor of the University of Creative Arts hit out after learning her budget had been cut by 7.8 per cent – more than any other university in the region and among the highest nationally.

Professor Elaine Thomas accused the HEFCE of unfairly targeting the creative arts.

She said: "As a specialist creative arts university we have been hit disproportionately by the cuts to university teaching grants."

"We are disappointed at this, given that we have experienced unprecedented high levels of applications and demand is strong nationally for graduates in creative subjects."

"Even during the recession, the creative industries have continued to grow. Our number one priority in the face of funding reductions is to protect the student experience."

"We are in a strong financial position and we will be working hard to generate efficiency

savings without compromising our staff-to-student ratio or the cutting-edge facilities that our students have come to expect."

North West Kent College of Technology principal David Gleed remained upbeat despite the cuts. He said the growing demand for vocational courses at its Gravesend and Dartford sites had offered financial protection.

He said: "While any cut in funding is disappointing, the college is working with a number of partners on a significant expansion of its higher education work, particularly around sustainable construction and other related programmes."

Other Kent universities fared slightly better than UCA.

The University of Kent (UKC) received a four per cent cut in funding, while Canterbury Christchurch University (CCU) saw funding drop by 2.3 per cent.

HFCE grants make up around 40 per cent of a university's budget.

The University and College union has raised fears funding cuts could see some departments, including humanities and the arts, at more risk than others.

UCA said it was likely tuition fees will rise as a result of the cuts.

## Man, 54, stabbed to death at house

A MIDDLE-aged man and woman have been found with serious stab wounds in a house at St Margaret's at Cliffe.

Police were called to the property in Ash Grove, between Dover and Deal, on Wednesday shortly after 8am and a 50-year-old woman and 54-year-old man were taken to hospital.

The man died later that day. The female is critical, but stable.

Officers do not believe anyone else is connected with the incident, although investigators are awaiting the results of the post-mortem.

## Widdy's TV Q&A

PIERS Morgan is to quiz Ann Widdecombe in the next series of interviews as part of his Life Stories series.

The former tabloid newspaper editor, who recently replaced Larry King as host of one of America's most popular chat shows, flew back into the UK from the States this week.

He confirmed he would be filming interviews with the former Maidstone and Weald MP, as well as former Baywatch and Knight Rider star David Hasselhoff.

## New store on isle?

SHOPPING complex Westwood Cross looks set for another major store.

Plans for a new two-storey retail unit, believed to be Primark, at the Broadstairs site have been passed to Thanet District Council officers to approve, subject to a legal agreement being put in place.

The application, for a non-food store, totalling 6,500 square metres split over two floors, was considered on Wednesday night by the council's planning committee.

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# THE INTERVIEW

BY NICK AMES

# Role with a vital message

**ACTOR** Duncan Preston, arguably best known for his work in such TV shows as *Dinnerladies* and *Emmerdale*, is taking to far more troubled waters in his latest role.

Preston, 64, plays the virtuous Deep South lawyer Atticus Finch in *To Kill A Mockingbird*, which is playing at The Churchill Theatre in Bromley in the weeks ahead.

It is 50 years since the Pulitzer Prize-winning novel by Harper Lee, on which the play is based, was published.

It tells the story of life in an American small town through the eyes of a child.

Brother and sister Jem and Scout Finch are growing up during the Great Depression, but their idyllic childhood innocence is shattered with the realisation that bigotry and prejudice rule in the town of Maycomb, Alabama.

**'Atticus thinks like I do and his attitudes are mine, in many ways. I have a kind of affinity with him'**

They become the victims of gossip and abuse when their father, Atticus, defends a young black man falsely accused of raping a white woman.

The original book was a key text for the American civil rights movement of the 1960s, and is a favourite of US president Barack Obama.

Preston said: "I played the role of Atticus four years ago, but this is a different production. The character Scout, who narrates the original work, is portrayed here as an older person – recalling what happened. As for playing my part, you couldn't ask for a better role on stage."

"There is certainly something about Atticus Finch."

"He thinks like I do and his attitudes are mine, in many ways. I have a kind of affinity with him and hopefully that'll come across to the audience. It's a bit like playing myself, but with an American accent."

"I think if I was a lawyer I would do what he did, go for the truth and trust the jury to make the right decision."

"The challenge of the role is just like any other [part] – making the character believable. This is an iconic story so it is a privilege to be part of it."

"People really love the work, it's almost like a sort of Bible. Sometimes before a production starts, there will be kids in the audience, they'll be shouting and bawling and you think, 'oh we've got a right lot here'."

"But within five minutes they are gripped and with the story. When the courtroom scenes comes with its verdict you can hear a pin drop, the silence is so great."

Preston has visited the southern states of the USA including a trip to the cultural melting-pot of New Orleans, post Hurricane Katrina.

"It was a sort of working holiday," he said. "I was on a cruise and doing some talks. But I loved the place, there was so much history and the people, even after that natural disaster, were so full of life."

Regarding the production, Preston said he is keen the underlying message is still understood by audiences today.

He said: "You hope you send people out thinking that we've given them lots of things to think about, and that they've watched a great story that's gripping."

"The play is about taking people as you find them and that's a message that needs to be heard. This world, this country, it can be pretty vicious."

"So trying to educate people is very important. If we can stop one person from being like that (having racist views) then it has definitely been worthwhile."

"Before I began working on this role I had never read the book. I feel guilty about not reading it as a child, in fact, as I really think I should have. I feel it should be compulsory for children."

"I understand why the writer Harper Lee never wrote another book – I think she said everything she wanted to say in this work. It's a brilliant piece of writing."

• *To Kill A Mockingbird* is at The Churchill Theatre in Bromley from Monday to Saturday, March 21-26. Tickets are available by phoning 08448 717620 or online at [www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley](http://www.ambassadortickets.com/bromley).



CHALLENGE: Duncan Preston as Atticus Finch in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

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# Protestors shocked after sludge plant is approved

By MATHEW BEECH

matthew.beech@kosmedia.co.uk

VILLAGERS say they have been left 'reeling' by the decision to approve controversial plans for a sludge treatment plant in the middle of the countryside.

Kent county councillors voted 14 to three in favour of Countryside Recycling's development at the Otterpool Quarry site in Sellindge, between Ashford and Hythe.

The plant – just yards from a popular roadside café – will house a fully-enclosed anaerobic digestion plant, a biological treatment process that converts food and garden waste into a solid, compost-like product as well as an organic liquid fertiliser.

It will deal with up to 95,000 tonnes of waste from Ashford, Dover and Shepway.

However, residents of Sellindge – 96 per cent of whom signed a petition opposing the plans – say they opposed the increase in lorries travelling through the village, which they say would pose a risk to life.

In addition, owners of the nearby Airport Café feared fluid leaking from trucks into its car park.

Ronald Lello, chairman of the Sellindge and District Residents' Association, said: "The reaction among the residents was one of considerable disappointment.

"The officers had a total disregard for the feelings of the three parish councils, the dis-



**DEFEATED:** Campaigners feel their opinions on the plan have been ignored

trict council, the residents' association and anyone else who lives here.

"It has left the residents disheartened and they feel as though this has been dealt with by people who don't care about them.

"We're still reeling from the decision."

Sean Furey, deputy director of Protect Kent, the local branch of the Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) said: "This development should not go ahead.

"Not only are the residents of the area opposed to it, but there are also serious risks of groundwater pollution, as well as the potential for up to 168 lorry movements in and out of the site every day.

"This is not the correct place for this development, and we believe that KCC has made a serious mistake by approving the proposal."

Patrick Green, who runs the Airport Café with his wife Julie, said: "We have no idea of the full impact until the site is fully up and running and by then it could be too late.

"We know it is going to be bad, but we don't know how bad it will be."

Chairman of the KCC planning committee, Richard King, said: "The committee was sympathetic to the concerns of local residents and congratulated them on the case they put.

"But in pure planning terms there were no significant or major planning reasons why this should be refused. Managed properly, this site will not cause an environmental problem for people locally.

"We have conditioned highway movements so that they will not go through Sellindge.

"There are also concerns which will be addressed by the Environment Agency. First of all, they are responsible for odour and emissions."

Niall Cormac-Walshe, technical director for the Countryside Group added: "Our application included a large number of technical assessments which have been reviewed by independent consultees.

"Those parties have each concluded that the scheme conforms to the UK latest environmental regulations".

Mr Lello added: "We may consider an appeal. If nothing else, we will make life for Countryside as difficult as possible."

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[www.yourashford.co.uk](http://www.yourashford.co.uk)

## Ex-council chief faces allegations

A POLICE probe has been launched into allegations surrounding former Tunbridge Wells council leader Roy Bullock.

Council chiefs in Tunbridge Wells and Kent Police both confirm allegations have been levelled against the Conservative councillor – believed to concern his relationship with public sector developer John Laing.

A Kent Police spokesman said: "Police have been made aware of these allegations and are establishing whether they have foundation and if indeed any offences have been committed. There are currently no active criminal investigations taking place in relation to the matter."

Cllr Bullock said: "I do not know anything about any investigations."

## Fountain plan

A GIANT water fountain could be built as part of the renaissance of Folkestone harbour.

A planning application has been submitted to Shepway District Council by Folkestone Harbour Company to install the interactive water feature – measuring 18 metres by 12 metres – in the square by Chummy's seafood stall, close to the harbour wall.

If plans are approved, the fountain could be completed by the summer.

## Charity cash gift

KIND-hearted Rotarians have helped to replace money stolen from a Kent Air Ambulance collection box.

The tin was stolen from Whites of Kent in New Street, in Sandwich, just before Christmas.

Members of the town's Rotary Club were shocked by the crime and refunded the stolen money, which amounted to around £50.

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On 31 March 2011, starting at 11am and finishing at 1pm, the Showcase will be held at:

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The Eastern and Coastal Kent Community Health NHS Trust Board Meeting in Public will also take place at the New Life Family Church on the same day starting at 1.30pm and closing at 4.30pm. Refreshments are provided between the Showcase and the Board Meeting.

Copies of the Board Papers are available on our website, please visit [www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk](http://www.eckcommunityservices.nhs.uk).

For questions relating to the Board Meeting please contact Jill Mackenzie on 01233 667840 or email [jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk](mailto:jill.mackenzie@eastcoastkent.nhs.uk).

## Jobs threat in trusts merger

AN NHS boss has said merging two of the county's biggest hospital trusts is the only way to deliver healthcare fit for the 21st century.

But hundreds of jobs could go if Medway Foundation Trust and Dartford and Gravesham Trust unite as one body.

Unison, the public service trade union, said it was concerned patient services would be affected. But Mark Devlin (pictured left), chief executive at Medway NHS Foundation Trust, said the merger would enable the trusts to extend the range of clinical services offered.

Acknowledging job losses, Mr Devlin said core departments, including A&E and maternity, would not be affected.

He said: "Across north Kent and Medway our populations are growing, as are their increasingly complex healthcare needs. Exploring ways to modernise local hospital services within the challenging economic environment is a necessity, not an option, if we are to deliver 21st century healthcare."

"An integration of the trusts could lead to a strengthening of essential services at both hospitals and improved access to more specialist services. There will be long-term savings from sharing management and other support services, which can be reinvested elsewhere in the local NHS."

A spokesman for the trust said increasing financial pressures combined with greater demands from Government had led to speculative talks on a merger to start more than a year ago. Both trusts said the priority continued to be the safe and effective provision of healthcare to patients. Before any merger, the trusts will hold a public consultation involving patients, governors, GPs, commissioners and local authorities.

They will also need to gain approval from the Department of Health.

# Jacko ferry



**ON BOARD:**  
Jackson meets  
Pride of Dover's  
Capt Hammond

READERS from around the world have been shedding light on this remarkable photograph of the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, **writes Marijke Cox**.

It pictures the late singer on a Dover to Calais cross-Channel ferry, shaking hands with Captain Pat Hammond on the Pride of Dover.

And since we put it up on our website and featured the snap on the front of our online-only sister title YourDover, it has triggered some fascinating stories.

It is thought to have been taken in June/July 1987 as the US star dazzled sell-out crowds across Europe with his tour promoting the multi-million selling Bad

album. Remarkably, the photographer who took the picture, long time P&O snapper Basil Kidd, called him "Malcolm" after getting the singer's name confused with a friend of his.

Commenting on our website [www.kentnews.co.uk](http://www.kentnews.co.uk) after we urged readers to help discover who Jackson came to be on the ferry, Mr Kidd's son, James, wrote: "The picture was taken by my dad, Basil Kidd, a freelance photographer who worked for P&O in the 1980s. He was using the ferry

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# mystery solved

as the weather was too rough to fly to Paris. A little known fact is that Dad, clearly out of touch with popular culture, called him Malcolm as he had a friend, Malcolm Jackson, in the Marines. I think Michael was quite taken aback by this faux pas!"

After our story was picked up by an online fan forum, a spokesman from Mr Jackson's estate said the singer did a lot of exploration on his days off while touring and could well have wanted to see the famous White Cliffs. The photograph was uncovered by archivists at Dover Harbour Board.

Chris Laming, communications director at ferry firm P&O, said he remembered Mr Jackson's visit.

"Our sales team got a call from Michael's people to say he was on the way within the hour, en route to the continent as part of a tour, and could we make arrangements so he and his entourage would have some peace and quiet on board," he said.

"We had function rooms on the Pride of Dover, so we put them in there. The photo was taken by a great character from Deal, Basil Kidd."

The former Royal Marine, who took pictures for more than 40 years, died in 2008. A



LARKIN ABOUT: Pam Ferris and Catherine Zeta Jones

book was released by Judith Davies, called Basil's Deal, showcasing his work.

The picture appeared on the front page of the now defunct Today newspaper in 1987, but has rarely been seen since.

Its discovery this week set the Jackson universe chatting. On www.mjjcommunity.com, after an appeal by Archant KOS Media for information, one poster wrote: "Due to bad weather he had to take the cruise instead of flying. He kept a low profile and the 2,000 passengers on board had no idea he was travelling."

Mr Jackson died in 2009. The image was revealed by a team at Dover Harbour Board: Chris Knight, Bob Wainwright, Andy Rintoul

and retired Ian Rintoul.

They want to preserve the history of the port for future generations and are cataloguing 42 photo albums dating back to the 1880s.

Other images to emerge include actresses Catherine Zeta Jones and Pam Ferris, taken at the port during filming for The Darling Buds of May. The popular TV series was shot at Pluckley, just outside Ashford.

Also among the finds was a letter from wartime Prime Minister Winston Churchill written on January 1, 1941, thanking staff at Dover Harbour Board for their good wishes and recognising the sacrifices of the people of Dover during the war.

The team's work, which is voluntary, is entering its third year, with advice from archivists at Dover Museum, Kent Archives and Canterbury Cathedral.

It began when Mr Knight and Ian Rintoul noticed some of the photo albums were deteriorating.

The pair felt action should be taken to preserve them for staff reference, local knowledge and heritage.

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## Opium in muffins

A DUTCH lorry driver has admitted trying to hide opium worth £75,000 in a lorry load of chocolate muffins.

Customs officers stopped the vehicle at the Port of Dover last Sunday, and discovered approximately 5kg of the drug in nine clear-wrapped packages.

The driver – Mohammed Satari-Khavas – was arrested and pleaded guilty at Folkestone Magistrates' Court. He was remanded in custody and will appear at Canterbury Crown Court for sentencing at a date to be decided.

A second man from Poland has been bailed while investigations continue.

## Motorcyclist killed

A 47-YEAR-OLD man died after the motorbike he was riding was hit by a truck on Tuesday afternoon.

The crash took place on Canterbury Road, Sturry, near Canterbury, at about 1.15pm.

The motorcyclist, who has not been named by police, was taken to the QEQM Hospital in Margate with serious injuries following the crash. His death was confirmed an hour later.

He was riding a blue Suzuki GSX 1400 motorcycle. The other vehicle belonged to SERCO and was a white Ford Transit Tipper. The driver was not injured.

## Dead man named

POLICE have confirmed the identity of the body found in the garden of a house in Ashford last week.

Officers were called to the property in St Teresa's Close, near the town centre, in the early hours of Tuesday, March 8.

There they discovered the body of Jed Daniel Turner – also known as Jed Little. He was 34.

Four people remain on bail pending investigations. Results of forensic tests following the Home Office post mortem are still awaited.

# Crash victim left dying as bike vanished

By JILL HURST

jill.hurst@kosmedia.co.uk

He said Mr Roberts had been riding alone, with "reasonable control" when he had attempted to mount a pavement.

"The left handlebar struck the fence and pushed him into it. The fence bowed and both rider and motorcycle were catapulted to the ground quite violently."

### Vanished

Mr Terry told the coroner he ran to a nearby house to call the emergency services, but when he emerged, the bike had vanished.

Mr Roberts, who was not wearing a crash-helmet at the time of the accident, had been staying with his girlfriend in her holiday chalet.

She did not attend the inquest. Mr Roberts' mother, Lenore, told Mr Sykes she had spoken to her briefly when her son was airlifted to a London Hospital, but had been unable to ascertain who owned the bike.

Mr Roberts also leaves two brothers, aged 18 and 22, a sister aged 23, and his 63-year-old father who lives in Spain.

Clearly distressed at the evidence, Mrs



**LOVED LIFE:** Crash victim Brett Roberts

Roberts asked Mr Terry if he had heard her son cry out, to which he replied he had not.

The coroner assured Mrs Roberts her son would have been instantaneously unconscious, and unaware of his injuries.

Paying tribute to him after the court case, Mrs Roberts said: "Today is closure for me. While I miss Brett every single day, I feel like I can move on."

"I'm disappointed the bike he was riding at the time was never recovered, but it won't bring him back. I will never forget his sunny and warm personality. He could make you smile and he loved life."

She revealed her son's organs had been donated for transplantation. Mr Robert's heart was given to a 36-year-old woman who was born with a rare defect.

"Even now, Brett's heart is still beating," she said. "It makes me proud to think his healthy body has helped others."



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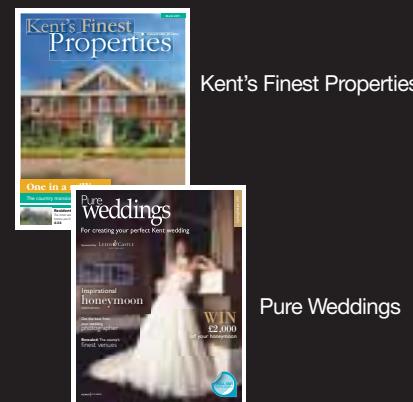
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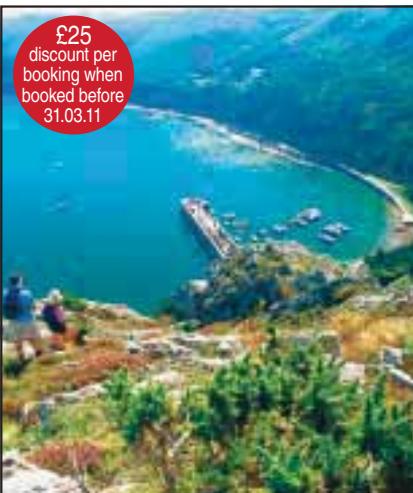
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# Rescuers race to find victims in the rubble

AS THE world looks on at the horrifying aftermath of Japan's earthquake, Kent's search and rescue heroes push on in the desperate search for survivors before all hope is lost.

Kent Fire and Rescue Service's (KFRS) seven-strong team, who were flown to Misawa and then on to the stricken city of Ofunato last Saturday, know the window of opportunity of finding people alive is rapidly closing.

### Contact

Assistant director of operations Sean Bone-Knell said the first five to six days after a catastrophe were the most vital.

"After that, when there's not a great deal of hope of finding anyone else alive, the team will move on to the recovery phase, which means finding bodies," he said.

Despite poor communications, the 63-strong UK team, including Kent's crew, was able to make contact with home earlier this week.

Group leader Peter Stephenson said the team had moved 30km north of Ofunato to Kamaishi, where 1,000 people were reported missing.

Searching through heavy snow and rubble, three bodies were recovered but no survivors found.

**MARIJKE COX** looks at the brave team from Kent sifting through the rubble of a Japan facing up to life after the devastating earthquake and tsunami



LITTLE HOPE: Cars and boats lie strewn amongst the wreckage of the town of Ofunato

Talking earlier in the week, Mr Stephenson said the team had to work during daylight hours only due to lack of power.

"The UK team are working near their colleagues from the United States and they are in radio contact with each other," he said.

"Kamaishi still has 1,000 people missing, but so far the UK team has only recovered three deceased."

Kent's urban search and rescue team is made up of 46-year-old station manager John Mazzey, from Pembury; firefighter Dean Langley, 46, from Sevenoaks; firefighter Matthew Scott, from Maidstone; crew manager Heather Heath, from Folkestone; watch manager Alan Downes, from Broadstairs; and watch manager Dave Hudson, also from Broadstairs.

The seventh member of the team is a KFRS technician.

Mrs Heath is the only woman in the British search and rescue team.

Speaking to a national newspaper from Ofunato, the 38-year-old, who volunteered to join the team 12 years ago, said: "We never know what we are going to find until we get there."

"We're just praying there is someone still alive."

"I volunteered for this to help people. Sometimes they have nothing. When we were driving here, I saw two women crying when they spotted us."

"They were so grateful and it really touched me."

Ofunato, with a population of 42,000, was one of Japan's many towns and cities on the east coast left devastated by the disaster.

The earthquake measuring 8.9 on the Richter scale triggered a tsunami which wiped out thousands of homes, leaving half a million people homeless.

Japan's death toll is rising rapidly, with more than 15,000 reported dead or missing. There are fears the figure could rise to about 100,000.

Throughout the week, the Japanese military continued its efforts to cool the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant, following several explosions caused by the earthquake and tsunami.

Fears were of a catastrophe to rival Chernobyl.

A spokeswoman from KFRS said the situation regarding potential radioactive contamination was being carefully monitored.

"Plans have been put in place to ensure the safety of the team should the situation develop," she said.

Expert scientific advice showed there was no risk of radiation contamination to the UK International Search and Rescue team, who were deployed more than 130km away from Fukushima nuclear plant.

The crew is using specialist equipment that can penetrate concrete and metal to gain access to victims.

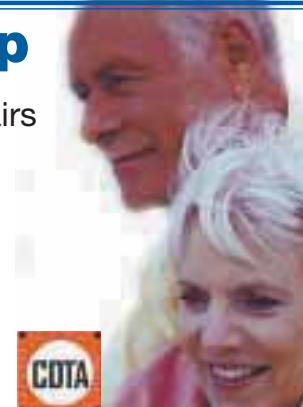
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**HEALTH FEARS:** The area affected by raised radiation levels and, inset, Jack Pudelek

# 'Buildings were swaying like trees'

By JENNA PUDELEK

jenna.pudelek@kosmedia.co.uk

THE leafy calm and tranquillity of Tunbridge Wells seems like a world away for Jack Pudelek.

The 24-year-old traded life in the spa town a little over a year ago to move to Japan; teaching English in Kanagawa, south of Tokyo.

Speaking exclusively to this newspaper, Mr Pudelek said many of his friends were already fleeing south amid concerns over leaking radiation.

Mr Pudelek, who went to prep school at Babington House in Chislehurst, said: "The problem with the nuclear power station in Fukushima has many people anxious. We

are being told we have planned power cuts due to the power shortage and need to conserve power. Certain places will have no power for three hours at a time.

"The Japanese citizens are very strong and resilient and their reaction to the quake has been remarkable and admirable.

"I was on the second floor of a coffee shop in Machida on the outskirts of Tokyo with a friend when the first quake hit.

"To begin with it felt as if my chair was being kicked by the old lady behind me so I moved it and continued my conversation, but I suddenly realised, as the shaking grew bigger and the building began to sway, that it was an earthquake.

"Knowing earthquakes are pretty normal in Japan and having felt a few smaller ones since my arrival, I tried to ignore it and con-

tinue my conversation. Then I realised my Japanese friend looked a little panicked and old ladies were beginning to exclaim.

"Outside, the street was filled with people and several had looks of shock and fear on their faces. I began to realise this was not your average earthquake and something more serious.

"I had been in touch with a friend in Saitama who told me he was in a tall skyscraper and could see other skyscrapers swaying like trees in the wind."

## PM defends nuclear programme

DAVID Cameron has backed calls by a Kent MP to push forward with a nuclear future, despite warnings that one of the county's power plants sits next to an earthquake zone.

It follows fears over the future of nuclear energy in the light of the situation in Japan.

In Parliament, the Prime Minister agreed with a statement by Folkestone and Hythe MP Damian Collins that nuclear power was an important part of future energy needs in the UK and should be "part of the mix".

Mr Collins is campaigning for a new nuclear station at Dungeness after it was excluded from Government's list of potential sites for development.

Dungeness sits next to a series of fault lines which triggered an earthquake measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale in Folkestone in 2007 and



**'RISK': Dungeness nuclear power station**

another two years later with a 2.8 magnitude.

It already houses a pair of nuclear power stations.

Dungeness A has been decommissioned,

and Dungeness B is due to close in 2018.

Mr Collins said it would be alarmist to suggest the earthquake in Japan would have a direct consequence for safety at the plant.

"The Government has carried out a site-specific study for Dungeness, including assessments for earthquakes and storm surge, and has concluded that there are no causes for concern," he said.

Kent Green Party, however, issued a warning stating that although the UK was not as seismically active as Japan in terms of earthquakes, predicting such a disaster was "not an exact science".

Campaigns officer Dr Hazel Dawe said: "The terrible series of earthquakes in Japan should bring a halt to new nuclear power stations in the UK, particularly at Dungeness."

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# Innovation key to our homes site relaunch

ARCHANT KOS Media, publisher of this newspaper, has relaunched and renamed its property channel – [www.propertyforkent.co.uk](http://www.propertyforkent.co.uk) – and is now powered by the leading property search and information business, Zoopla.

The new-look channel, which went 'live' on Thursday, will now be known as [www.homes24.co.uk](http://www.homes24.co.uk) and includes many unique search and research features including free, instant valuations for every UK home and a property community AskMe! Q&A as well as the ability to set a TemptMe price on your home or make a TemptMe offer on a home.

The relaunch comes after teaming up with our parent group Archant – the UK's largest independently owned regional media company.

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Among the titles under the Archant umbrella are Kent on Saturday, Kent on Sunday and our online YourLocal series, covering Ashford, Canterbury, Swale,

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The new website and promotion by Archant will be a clear win for agents and developers who advertise on [homes24.co.uk](http://www.homes24.co.uk).

Martin Cunningham, commercial director at Homes24.co.uk, said: "We are delighted to have partnered with Zoopla, who have delivered us an innovative and market-leading online property search product."

"We will be making a significant investment in the promotion of [homes24.co.uk](http://www.homes24.co.uk) to maximise the benefit from each of our media assets."

Alex Chesterman, founder and CEO of Zoopla.co.uk, said: "This deal is a natural fit, combining the ability of a traditional publisher to drive traffic using their strong media assets to a market-leading online platform provided by us."

"The partnership leverages each of our core competencies to benefit both consumers of Archant media and members of the Zoopla platform."

• To view the newly launched [homes24](http://www.homes24.co.uk) website powered by Zoopla.co.uk, go to: [www.homes24.co.uk](http://www.homes24.co.uk)

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## Earth Hour's timely reminder

LIGHTS will go out around the globe next weekend for this year's Earth Hour. But Kent is lagging behind the rest of the nation when it comes to people signing up to take part.

According to the Earth Hour map, hosted by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), Kent is 79th out of 107 areas across the UK. Neighbouring East Sussex is 39th and Surrey 10th.

However, not everyone is turning their back on Earth Hour, which aims to raise awareness of climate change by switching off lights for an hour.

In previous years Canterbury Cathedral has been plunged into darkness, along with Westminster's St Stephen's Tower – which

houses Big Ben – to mark the event. Among those taking part will be Swale Borough Council. All non-essential lights in Swale House, the Sheerness district office and the Alexander Centre in Faversham will be switched off.

Council leader Cllr Andrew Bowles said: "Swale is pleased to be supporting Earth Hour for the third year in a row.

"If everyone turns out all non-essential lights in their homes and workplaces for just one hour it will be one small step in symbolising what can be achieved to tackle climate change."

Earth Hour starts on Saturday, March 26, at 8.30pm.



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**NEW ROLE:** The minibus is handed over to Kent Search and Rescue, who will use it as a mobile control centre

# Police minibus gift boosts rescue crew

KENT Police have donated a decommissioned police minibus to Kent Search and Rescue (KSAR), **writes James Benjamin.**

KSAR is a voluntary organisation that offers a special service to the police, RAF Search and Rescue Units, other emergency services and local councils throughout Kent, and the rest of the UK if called upon.

KSAR is manned by volunteers and is operational 365 days a year. Activated at the request of emergency organisations, they help track missing and vulnerable people.

When the minibus was decommissioned, officers at force headquarters saw a chance to put it to good use.

Chief Inspector Simon Black from the force contact and control centre said: "The volunteers at Kent Search

To advertise in this section  **01303 817150**

Rescue are a very special group of people. At Kent Police we are extremely grateful for the assistance they offer, both to us and to members of the public all across the county. Kent Search and Rescue's need for a new control vehicle coincided with our minibus being decommissioned, used throughout Kent, and will be used every time we are deployed to an incident. We had been fundraising for a new vehicle but were looking at having to pay about £30,000. This donation means that we will now be able to spend the funds we had raised on extra equipment."

raised on extra equipment.

Chief Superintendent Alasdair Hope, from Kent Police's tactical operations group, said: "We're delighted that the minibus is going to a good home where it will have a new lease of life helping individuals and families across Kent."

A large, multi-panel promotional poster for Oliver Carpets. The top left features a photograph of the exterior of an Oliver Carpets showroom with a sign above the entrance. The top right contains text and icons about their 'don't worry policy'. A large red diagonal banner across the middle reads 'NO VAT INCREASES HERE!' in white text. Below this, a large yellow 'FREE' is displayed next to a list of services: fitting, delivery, roller rods, door bars, and increases. Red text below states 'We don't need to do 50% or 70% carpet sales our prices are competitive all year round'. The bottom left shows a close-up of a carpet sample with a smiley face overlaid. The bottom right features the company's name in a large, stylized font, along with contact details for three branches and a warehouse, and a Visa payment method logo.

# Traders' dismay as superstore approved

By JENNA PUDELEK

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**SUPERMARKET** giant Tesco has won permission to build a store in Hawkhurst, despite widespread objections.

Tunbridge Wells Borough Council turned down the original application, saying it would have "a detrimental impact on the vitality and viability" of the village centre.

But Tesco appealed against the decision and the Planning Inspectorate said the scheme should be allowed to go ahead.

It will see the former Arriva bus station in Rye Road demolished and replaced with a new branch of the supermarket.

The borough council also objected over concerns about increased traffic at the already-congested A268/A299 junction, concerns shared by Hawkhurst Parish Council.

Chair of the parish council, Keith Brown, said: "We are concerned because you cannot have an 82-space car park and not have a far greater movement of traffic."

"There is another car park a short distance down the road, it's going to



MOVING IN: Tesco has won permission for a new store in Hawkhurst

be like a clash of the Titans."

Howard Cox, chair of the Weald Business Association (WBA), said retailers in the area feared they would lose out to the buying clout and prices of the supermarket.

He explained: "We recognise that Tesco will bring employment and increase footfall, but they are going to go to Tesco. That's my worry."

"They are already getting one in Staplehurst, we are going to be surrounded by Tesco stores."

"I think it has a place, but they are destroying small villages and towns."

One of the conditions attached to the planning permission is the store cannot open a pharmacy or fresh-food counter.

But Mr Cox said local butchers, grocers and off-licences remained

concerned about the impact on their businesses.

Mr Brown said: "We felt the building was ugly and it would cause immense traffic problems and we are still of that opinion."

"In the report it clearly states there will be no impact on local traders, but that is absolutely impossible. Of course it will. We feel very concerned that we are going to lose the balance we have here."

"We have very good produce shops with a butcher, a greengrocer and a delicatessen. They have a hard core of followers, but they are certainly going to lose out."

Tesco says the store will increase shoppers for other traders and said no evidence suggested other businesses would lose out.

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# Taskforce sets out Research firms 'in talks' over saving jobs

By MARIJKE COX

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A TASKFORCE set up to examine options to cope with the aftermath of drug giant's Pfizer decision to pull out of Kent has revealed it is in talks with a number of research companies which could help save jobs at the fated site.

The disclosure formed part of the group's 30-day report, drawn up in response to the announcement by the US-headquartered firm that it would be leaving the Sandwich plant at the end of 2012.

Up to 2,400 jobs are at risk, with an additional 3,000 under threat when taking into account contractors at the site.

The taskforce, chaired by Kent County Council leader Paul Carter and made up of local MPs and industry experts, was challenged with drawing up a report to show to Government, setting out plans to ease the impact of Pfizer's looming departure on the east Kent economy.

Presented to ministers on Tuesday, the paper revealed how Pfizer is in "detailed and commercial" talks with contract research organisations (CROs) which, if successful, could create economic activity at the site



**CLOSING DOWN:** Up to 2,400 people will lose their jobs by 2012, when Pfizer's Sandwich site is closed



and generate job opportunities.

The report also lists five phases of action, from preserving jobs at the plant to creating a long-term delivery plan for wider opportunities in the area.

These include designating east Kent as one of Government's proposed Research, Innovation and Technology Zones (RITZ), covering Sandwich and the Manston corridor.

Companies setting up there would benefit from tax breaks, lenient planning rules and National Insurance contribution holidays.

The report also calls for the crea-

tion of an East Kent Recovery and Growth Package, including the development of high speed rail access and a reduction in journey times from London to Thanet and Dover.

Leader of KCC and taskforce chairman Paul Carter said they would leave no stone unturned in stimulating business at the Pfizer site.

"Our report focuses on the opportunities presented by the world class skills and facilities built by Pfizer over the last 60 years," he said.

"They offer a unique asset on which to build a new model of high-tech growth and employment, which would be of importance not only to

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# plans for Pfizer site

Kent, but to the country. Time is of the essence.

"We have sought to understand best practice from around the UK and the world in developing workable solutions which will deliver our vision of growth in this area."

MP for South Thanet, Laura Sandys, secured an adjournment debate last week to discuss her hopes for the Pfizer site, where she pressed Government to consider creating an enterprise zone.

Speaking after the release of the first taskforce report on Tuesday, she said such a zone could help stabilise the site and create new jobs.

"This aspiring proposition could see Sandwich and east Kent building on its existing skills base and leading the way in global enterprise, science and technology," she said.

"At the heart of the report are recommendations for finding ways that staff and the wider community affected are supported.

"To realise this vision, Government must sustain its momentum. It could



**DETERMINED:** Thanet South MP Laura Sandys and KCC leader and taskforce chairman Paul Carter

consider offering economic incentives to businesses relocating to the site and might also acknowledge that improving transport links to Thanet and Deal would make east Kent more attractive to investors.

"Along with my colleagues on the taskforce and local east Kent MPs, I will work tirelessly to attract new businesses to the site and support existing Pfizer staff with any business start-up ideas they might have."

Sandwich site head Ruth

McKernan said the immediate priority was to support staff through the transition. She added that discussions with third parties who could provide jobs to meet the skills and expertise of staff were continuing.

On a visit to Dover on Tuesday, shadow business secretary John Denham said Government needed to invest money in the future of east Kent.

"There are huge costs associated with 4,000 plus people losing their jobs. All spending power is taken out of the economy," he said.

"In the report I can't see a single promise of money."

Mr Denham also criticised the coalition's decision to cut regional development agencies (RDAs), such as Seeda, claiming the newly-formed Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) did not have enough power.

Work on a second report has commenced.

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**WINDOW SEAT:** Turner was a regular visitor to this guest house

## Turner's seaside retreat

A PAIR of Victorian photographs which turned up during a clear-out at a local library have thrown new light on artist JMW Turner's visits to Margate.

They show the home of seaside landlady Sophia Booth, where the artist set up residence.

It is on the same ground the brand new Turner Contemporary is due to open on next month.

Turner used to sketch skies and passing ships while sitting next to an upper floor bay window.

Mrs Booth's home has since been demolished.

Turner first came to the town as an 11-year-old boy with his uncle in 1786. He visited the town regularly and went to the newly widowed Mrs Booth's guest house in 1832.

She became the artist's mistress and bore him two children.

Eventually Turner set up home with her in Cheyne Walk, Chelsea using her name. He died there in 1851, and was buried in St Paul's Cathedral.

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Exhibitors buoyed as holiday fever hits Archant KOS Media's ever-popular event

# 'Phenomenal' response as crowds flock to show



CROWD-PLEASER: Dover Cruise Terminal hosted the fourth Archant KOS Media Travel and Leisure Show which was attended by thousands eager to plan their holiday abroad or trips around the UK

THOUSANDS of people turned out for Archant KOS Media's celebrated Travel and Leisure Show, writes **Marijke Cox**.

For a fourth year running Dover Cruise Terminal was packed out as people flocked to the annual event on Sunday to plan a holiday or day trip with advice from leading travel companies and groups.

Visitors were treated to presentations from industry experts as well as information from a French contingent who took part in the show for the first time since it launched in 2007.

## Fabulous

Guests were also in with a chance of winning from one of more than 100 top prizes including a two-week cruise courtesy of Fred Olsen Cruise Lines and weekend breaks in the UK or France.

Other prizes included entry to some of the county's most popular attractions and dinner at a selection of top French restaurants.

Tickets for West End musical Les Misérables, overnight stays at leading hotels and B&Bs, and falconry lessons

at Quex Park in Birchington were also up for grabs. The winners will be notified shortly.

KOS Media events manager Liz Hare said the show was "phenomenal".

"Exhibitors were saying it was even better than last year and some were already talking about coming to next year's show," she said.

"It was so busy that at one point someone said it was busier than a lot of the London shows."

"For the Fred Olsen presentation it was standing room only. We were trying to squeeze people through the door."

"The Lullingstone Castle presentation went really well too – people came out saying how fabulous the speaker was and that they could have listened to him all day."

"I'm so pleased. It was even better than expected."

The show coincided with the start of British Tourism Week which aims to raise awareness of the importance of Britain's visitor economy.

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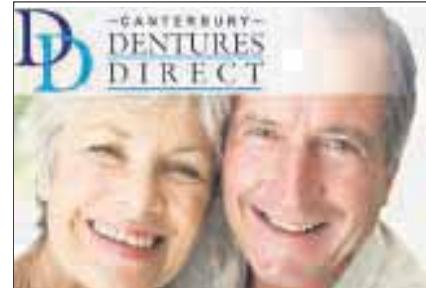
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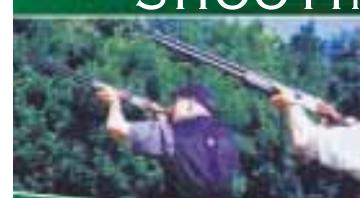
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# Butterflies 'at risk' as climate change ends hibernation

By JILL HURST

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CLIMATE change and the erosion of the green belt are driving the butterfly to extinction in Kent.

Mild weather is prompting the insect to emerge much earlier from hibernation, but the plants it feeds on will not yet have grown. This Peacock butterfly (pictured) was snapped by wildlife photographer and conservationist Kerry King last week in Sandling Park, near Hythe – six weeks earlier than expected.

Mr King says global warming isn't the only threat to the creature's survival.

He explained: "Urban development, modern farming techniques and poor woodland management are some of the reasons our resident butterflies are on the decline."

"Ten years ago it would have been unheard of to build on greenbelt land, but with an ever-growing population, councils are under pressure to give it up to property developers, so natural habitats are being wiped out."

Mr King says he fears instability in weather patterns will only make matters worse, as nature reserves around the Kent coast – including the Isle of Sheppey and New Romney – are lost to the sea.

"Experts predict the tide will be 10ft higher



**EARLY:** This beautiful Peacock butterfly was spotted in Sandling Park last week

within the next 20 years and parts of the Kent coast will disappear. It's not just the butterfly that will be lost, but many other species too."

Research recently published by the Wildlife and Countryside Link indicates the Government is still failing to stop the decline in UK wildlife.

Dr Martin Warren, chief executive of Butterfly Conservation, said "This is a damning report that shows the UK's wildlife is still in a dire state. Although the process has galvanised some excellent projects, overall progress has been strangled by lack of resources for nature conservation.

"The latest round of Government cuts will make it far more difficult to turn this round. We need more action and more resources."



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Smeeth, Kent, TN25 6SS.

Mark on your entry which session you want, should you win.

If do not wish to receive any literature/emails, please write 'no literature/emails' on your entry.

Closing date for entries is Monday, March 28, 2011.

Terms: All shoots are subject to a £25 booking fee (refundable at time of viewing).

Only one entry per household. Free sessions only valid on newborn, children, couples and family sessions. Any sessions including make-up and hair styling (eg. make-overs, boudoir and pin-up) are available, but will incur an additional £35 fee.

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# Heart op scientists' EU boost

By STEVE KNIGHT

steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

MEDICAL scientists have won £750,000 funding for a groundbreaking research project aimed at improving treatments for heart patients.

Experts based at the University of Greenwich's Medway campus are working on a new form of stent – tiny artificial tubes that open up the arteries – that will slowly release drugs into the bloodstream.

The scientists hope to attract major commercial interest both in the UK and Europe once they have produced the first prototype.

Professor Jeremy Everett is head of pharmaceutical, chemical and environmental sciences at the university.

He said: "We are excited about the possibilities of improving cardiac medicine with this new technology."

"While stents have been around for many years, statistics show they can unfortunately still lead to post-operative complications and sometimes death after heart surgery.

"With our new type of stent we are hoping to decrease these complications and both extend and improve the lives of patients after surgery."

The new stent is being developed by the Medway scientists in partnership with two universities in Lille, France, with the funding provided by the European Union's Interreg programme.

Stents are most commonly used after angioplasty surgery, which is the technique of widening a narrowed or obstructed blood vessel.

More than 45,000 angioplasties are carried out each year in the UK alone, and it is estimated the number is even higher in France.

"Our stent will have a special plastic coating which will slowly deliver one or more drugs

into the bloodstream," said Dr Dennis Douroumis, senior lecturer at Medway's School of Science.

"This will help tackle problems that can arise around the heart such as infections, inflammation and thrombosis, or the clotting of the blood."

The breakthrough is the second in just over a year for the university, following the publication in February, 2010, of research in the area of drug targeting.

A team of scientists led by Dr

Simon Richardson was able to provide direct evidence, for the first time, that nano-medicines can be delivered straight to a specific organ inside a cell.

The work was praised at the time by the respected scientific journal, the Journal of Controlled Release.

Dr Richardson said: "We are trying to smuggle healthy genes into cells. Our research is at the cutting edge of efforts to turn gene therapy and molecular medicines from risky and sci-fi to safe and routine."

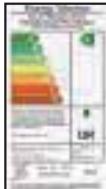


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# JULIE MADDOCKS

## Wills and Kate a close-knit couple

AS THE countdown to the wedding of the year has begun, we're all going to have to get a move on to ensure we have the ultimate souvenir of the occasion ready on time; 'The Knit your own Royal Wedding'.

Knitting patterns for ten 'characters' from William and Kate's nuptials include the bride and groom, the Queen, Archbishop of Canterbury and of course, don't forget the corgis.

The designs are featured in a £9.99 book by Fiona Goble; however the making of the characters cost a little more as to create the entire set will be around £80.

The research into each woolly Windsor family is perfect; height, skin colouring, and wardrobe features are amazing, each one taking an estimated five hours to make.

Amateurs are warned though that the designs' intricate details – such as Kate's diamante engagement ring and the jewels on her slippers – may cause them to drop a few stitches.

All sounds great – if only I could knit. I've tried on numerous occasions.

more like 'knit one – purl one, drop four'.

For many the idea of knitting may seem old fashioned, but apparently nothing could be further from the truth.

Knitting has become fashionable again, with celebrity fans such as Julia Roberts and Cameron Diaz. The growing number of knitting circles mean they're the new book clubs for 2011.

It seems that the wonder of wool has taken over many peoples' spare time, with knitting groups being set up left right and centre.

### **Stitch 'n' Bitch**

One of the latest trends is bands of women who have set up alternative knitting groups, dubbed 'Stitch 'n' Bitch'.

The idea is quite simple: women meet weekly in their homes, bars or cafés to knit, gossip and compare tricky patterns over a glass of wine.

It's also good news for the economy. Thanks to the rebirth of the craze after years of decline, the British wool industry is fighting back. Exports of wool are on the way up and knitting has once again become the hobby of the 21st century.

All sounds great – if only I could knit. I've tried on numerous occasions.

I felt dreadful whilst expecting our boys when I'd attempted to knit mittens for my baby which ended up looking more like shovels than hand warmers. It was thanks to the skills of my aunts, who provided my newborn sons with some of their most treasured baby clothes.

It's the ultimate job application question though isn't it – what are your hobbies?

I must admit it's a bit of a stumbling block for me.

When do I have time for hobbies? My daily schedule is packed as it is – with work, dog walking, housework, cooking and Coronation Street – there's not a lot of time left – and yes, I do know I should make time, but sometimes it's easier said than done.

I'd be lying if I said I did on a regular basis those I could put on my CV.

Hopefully, the chances of my boss investigating the authenticity of those on my CV at present is slim. Mind you I will come a cropper if they were to ask to see my wakeboarding championship gold medals.

Perhaps I should revisit the knitting circle?

Where did I put those needles?



PAST-TIME: Knitting is becoming increasingly popular

Radio personality Julie Maddocks is a regular columnist – contact her at [julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:julie.maddocks@kosmedia.co.uk)

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# Serving up perfect tonic – rather than one tasteless joke

**T**HINK hospitals and one of the first things people will joke about is the quality of the food.

Mass catering rarely takes plaudits for its culinary delights and for generations now the quality of the food served to patients has been criticised. What's more, recent figures from the NHS reveal more people than ever are leaving hospitals malnourished.

A recent Channel 4 Dispatches programme raised serious concerns about patients not getting the right quantity or nutrition from food and elderly people being left with no help to eat. All in all, a problem.

The new Tunbridge Wells Hospital at Pembury has been labelled a 'super' hospital – built under a private finance initiative (PFI), it cost £234 million and is the first in the country to have all single en-suite rooms. But does the food match the appealing hotel-like interior and forest views?

With just months to go until the new Pembury hospital opens, reporter JENNA PUDELEK was invited to sample some once notoriously suspect hospital catering to see if the food on offer could get her taste buds tingling

Keen to show that not all hospitals serve up the kind of slop seen in the Channel 4 programme, Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust invited us along to sample what they offer patients.

To sum up, it wasn't at all bad. Yes, the courgettes were a bit mushy and the penne pasta a long way from al dente, but as the catering team pointed out, the majority of those eating it will be elderly sick people.

It wasn't tasteless and I would definitely go back for the summer fruits crumble. There also appeared to be a lot of thought going into planning menus, thinking up the sort of 'com-

fort food' people might want if they are ill and making sure it is nutritionally balanced.

Given the scale of the catering operation involved, it was never going to be haute cuisine, but it is impressive.

Sitting over coffees in the hospital's rather swish restaurant – don't try mentioning the word canteen here – Pat Demian, the trust's general manager of facilities, and Paul Rhodes, the hospital's catering manager, talk about the menu.

Mrs Demian, who promises I will sample "exactly the same" food as the patients, said: 'I've stayed in several



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hospitals and compared to some this is very good."

The 512-bed hospital, which opens fully in September, has 10 wards each with a 'regeneration kitchen'. No, it's not something out of a sci-fi movie, but staffed by three members of the catering team who look after patients' meals and dietary requirements. The regeneration kitchen allows food to be heated up just yards from the patients' beds. When I'm taken up to one of the regeneration kitchens it's all very shiny, new and chrome, with a large, hi-tech, hotplate trolley containing a selection of the hospital menu.

**T**HE two-week menus are being redesigned before the big opening in September, so at the moment the choice of food is the same across the trust's hospitals, the Kent and Sussex and Maidstone. The trust spends £3m a year on catering services. Plans for the new menu at Pembury include adding specific children's options, Mr Rhodes said.

Food is provided by a company called Apetito, which specialises in providing a frozen-meal delivery service for hospitals and care homes.

Offerings include puréed meals for those having trouble swallowing, choices for those with allergies, gluten-free diets, high-protein soups, meals for people with diabetes, low-fat choices, vegetarian choices and a few vegan options. There is provision for halal and kosher diets, too. Among the meals on offer are traditional favourites such as cottage pie, fish pie, stews, meat and gravy, mashed potatoes, and corned beef hash. There are also sal-



HOTPLATE: Meals will be piping hot

ads, vegetable bakes, salmon and quiche, and various desserts.

Mrs Demian said a recent survey found 90 per cent of patients thought the food was acceptable or above.

"We now have a catering assistant based on each ward who will be speaking to patients on a daily basis," Mr Rhodes said. "They will report back any comments."

Mrs Demian described the meals as "comfort eating" designed to "make you feel good".

"Most hospitals give patients a menu card," she said. "Here they do not have to choose until the meal is in front of them."

**A**SKED how staff members ensure patients who need help eating are fed, they said their trays are marked in red. It all sounds good, although it's hard to know whether the experience of patients matches my own.

Asked whether it would be tastier all round if cooked freshly on site rather than heated up, Mrs Demian said: "The regeneration system gives great flexibility."

"Frozen food has a bit of an image problem, like hospital food. But it has moved on so much that the freezing technique holds all the nutritional value in the food. Because it is prepared in the regeneration kitchen, it comes out piping hot."

"The nutrition content is actually better than traditionally cooked food."

Up in the regeneration kitchen, Elaine Hasker, Apetito's catering consultant for the South East, talks us through the lunch options including tomato soup (very good), chunky vegetable, chicken and vegetable casserole, corned beef hash, fish pie, pasta provencal (tasty, although slightly overcooked), summer fruit crumble (lovely) and custard (good, not lumpy) and loaded with

extra vitamins, I'm reliably informed).

Asked whether the company was concerned about environmental issues such as using fish from sustainable sources, she said: "We are trying to reduce some of the cod we use and we are looking at moving over to hake and pollock."

"It is an ongoing exercise. Our product management team and full-time chefs look at food technologies and work on developing sustain-

able products so we do as little damage to the environment as possible."

Pembury has an enviable dilemma in this respect. With private rooms all equipped with flat-screen televisions, the level of basic care is going to be head and shoulders above that of the old-style wide, long, open wards that, for example, the Kent & Sussex has.

The bar will be raised so high that any short-

fall will be frowned upon.

Perhaps we, as patients, need to lower our expectations a little, too. It may, after all, look like a hotel, but perhaps expecting restaurant-quality food is a little unrealistic. At least it's moving in the right direction.

• **Have you had a good or bad experience with hospital food? Let us know by emailing editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**

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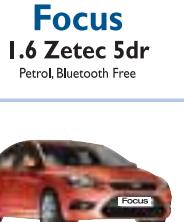
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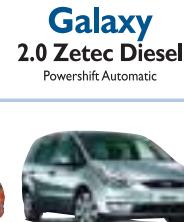
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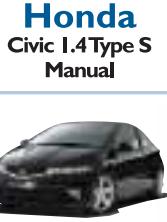
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# Beetle wing dress has theatre lovers buzzing



OUT, DAMNED SPOT: Ellen Terry as Lady Macbeth in the shimmering dress

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ONE of the most iconic dresses of the Victorian era – shimmering with 1,000 real beetle wings – is returning home to Kent, writes **Marijke Cox**.

The emerald and sea-green gown, which is covered in iridescent wings of the jewel beetle, was made famous by actress Dame Ellen Terry in her portrayal of Lady Macbeth in 1888.

The 120-year-old dress was one of the most iconic costumes of the time, immortalised by the John Singer Sargent portrait at the Tate Gallery.

Now, after 1,300 hours of painstaking conservation work costing £50,000, the gown is on display at Smallhythe Place, near Tenterden, where Ellen Terry lived between 1899 and 1928. House manager Paul Meredith said the beetle wings that had dropped off were collected and reattached, along with others that had been donated by an antiques dealer.

"The 100 or so wings that were broken were each carefully repaired by supporting them on small pieces of Japanese tissue adhered with a mixture of wheat starch paste," he said.

"But the majority of the work has involved strengthening the



FINISHING TOUCH: The beetle wing dress has been restored

fabric, understanding the many alterations that were made to the dress and ultimately returning it to something that is much closer to the costume worn by Ellen on stage in 1888."

The actress, known as the Queen of the Theatre, was famed for her portrayal of Shakespearean heroines, and played opposite Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum Theatre in London for more than 20 years.

Her beetle dress stage costume was one of the most important items in the National Trust's col-

lection and was on the priority list to be conserved.

Brighton-based conservator Zenzie Tinker and her team carried out the work.

"We have restored the original shape of the elaborate sleeves and the long, trailing hemline that Ellen so admired," she said. "If she were alive today, I'm sure she'd be delighted."

"She really valued her costumes, because she kept and reused them time and again. I'd like to think she'd see our contribution as part of the ongoing history of the dress."

The gown is now in a new display space at Smallhythe Place, alongside features from Ellen Terry's dressing room which have never been viewed by the public before.

The half-timbered house, built in the early 16th century when Smallhythe was a thriving shipbuilding yard, contains Ellen



ON DISPLAY: Ellen Terry's dress

Terry's fascinating theatre collection. The grounds include her rose garden, orchard, nuttary and the working Barn Theatre.

Mr Meredith said the setting was an intimate area, bursting with theatre history and stage costumes.

"Now the beetle wing dress is back and we finally have a really good contemporary display space, we hope to show many more people just how special the house and collections are," he said.

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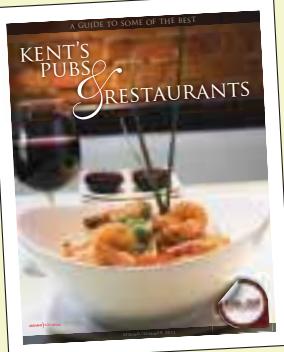
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# Animals captured by photographers

**KENT'S PUBS & RESTAURANT GUIDE**



16 Page Pullout inside this weekends Review

**KENT ON SATURDAY** **KENT ON SUNDAY**

By **NICK AMES**

[nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:nick.ames@kosmedia.co.uk)

THESE are the stunning images captured by visitors to two of the county's top wildlife parks.

As part of its annual photography competition, the Aspinall Foundation last week picked the best of the bunch – all snapped in and around Port Lympne or Howletts wild animal parks.



The competition, which ran throughout 2010, set entrants the task of submitting the best images on any subject captured while visiting the popular parks.

The winner of the adult category was Andrew Walker with his shot Pouncing Tiger showing a Siberian tiger at Howletts, in Bekesbourne near Canterbury. Mr Walker also won the black and white section with his photo Ruffed Lemur.

He won a day at Port Lympne, near Hythe, with professional wildlife photographer Dave Rolfe, who has been photographing the animals at Howletts and Port Lympne for more than 25 years.

Mr Walker said: "I remember clearly the moments before and after taking the photograph of the tiger. It was the first time my wife and I had taken our family to Howletts.

"It was a lovely sunny day and we were all having a great time, we made it to the tiger enclosure by the afternoon where there was quite a crowd standing at the metal mesh gate near the pool. I hadn't noticed the glass viewing area at that point,



and I know if I had I would have stood there with my camera instead, but I am glad I didn't.

"My oldest daughter, Lucy, was standing in front of me while we

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## THE CATWALK

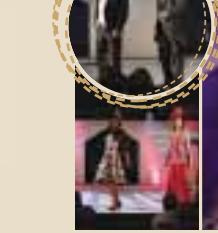
There are four magical and inspirational catwalk shows on each of the two days with wondrous collections of exquisite bridal designs, couture, ladies fashions, lingerie, swimwear, and men's attire.

**On both days TV celebrity Claire Sweeney will be hosting two fabulous catwalk shows.**

The shows are co-ordinated and professionally choreographed creating the 'wow factor'.



Photograph By Kali Grant, Camera Press London





watched the tiger walking through the water, I quickly set-up my camera and started following the tiger in my viewfinder, the tiger began to play then pounced towards us, I took a burst of three shots – this being the middle one.

"I immediately looked on the back of the camera to see if I had managed to get the shot. I was thrilled with the moment in time I had captured."

The winner of the junior section was Matthew Bourne with his image of an ostrich.

He said: "I was on a junior ranger day at Port Lympne and as we were walking around an ostrich came up to the fence and poked his head over.

"Someone in our group saw this and called everybody over; luckily for me I had my camera out and took a few pictures, it was so close no zoom was needed."

Junior highly commended was Jessica Lloyd with her image of a meerkat. Highly commended in the adult category were Vincent Catt with an image of a black rhino, Suzanne Kirk with her image of a lion-tailed macaque, and Dave Woodcock with his image of a pallas cat.

Highly commended in the black and white category was Barry Casse with his image of a western lowland gorilla. Naomi Trew was the winner of the mobile phone section with her image of Siberian tigers at Howletts.

As well as the winning photographs the competition also revealed the quirkier side of residents at the park as animal director at Port

Lympne, Adrian Harland, explained: "We very much enjoyed seeing these beautiful images and the winning photographs were exceptional.

"It was also a delight to see some of the more off-beat submissions that showed our animals expressing their distinctive personalities. We are dedicated to the animals in our care and to have these unique moments captured in time is very special."



**STUNNING:**  
Andrew  
Walker's  
picture of  
a Siberian  
tiger  
(above) was  
the overall  
winner of  
the contest



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## LETTER OF THE WEEK

### Fewer police, more violence

The recommendation to slash police overtime, combined with the cutting of 1,500 posts in Kent, can signal only one thing – the Coalition Government has adopted a new approach to crime which is soft on crime, soft on criminals.

No amount of spin or double talk by politicians can hide the reality of these measures. Reducing police posts, whether on the frontline or in the back office, will only lead to crimes going undetected, more criminals getting off scot free and police morale sinking to an all-time low.

Here in Folkestone, this idiotic reduction in policing can only result in the town becoming less safe by day and more dangerous by night.

Justice Secretary Ken Clarke exemplifies just how soft the Government has gone on crime, and how much he and his cabinet colleagues are placing us all at risk.

People carrying illegal knives, he tells us, should not now be locked up unless they use those knives – a policy that totally failed to stop a pitched knife battle in our midst on Marine Parade, and one that resulted in the fatal stabbing of someone who came to the country to seek our protection from the violence and lawlessness that so tragically ended his life.

An unfortunate incident, we are assured by Damian Collins MP, that will not be repeated in Folkestone now that young asylum seekers have been dispersed around the county. Time will tell, but I very much doubt he is right.

Sadly, it doesn't take a genius to work out that with 1,500 fewer police posts in the county, crime will increase, and so will the chances of more pitched battles in Folkestone.

Softly, softly, may catch the occasional monkey but this town needs a police force that catches criminals.

*Donald Worsley, Folkestone*

### Cut the cost of rail and buses

The UK's Carbon Plan is a 'shallow compilation' of the Government's policies and 'offers little that is new', says Green Party leader Caroline Lucas. I can only agree.

The draft plan highlights three key changes which must take place across the UK – the way energy is generated, moving towards low carbon alternatives; in the ways homes and businesses are heated, including improved insulation; and in the way people travel, including better public transport and a shift towards new technologies such as electric vehicles.

But the real problem in this plan is that our local councils are not getting enough money to make the necessary changes and create new jobs.

The draft plan, now out for consultation, has many praiseworthy features but lacks adequate finances.

The obvious example in Kent and Medway is our highly-

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## OPINION: SMASHING CENSUS 'LIES'

The co-ordinator of campaign group NO2ID, **IAN TAYLOR**, explains why he believes the census is a pointless and intrusive waste of taxpayers' money

**M**arch 27 is Census Day. An awareness campaign is in full swing telling us how essential it is. About 30,000 officials have been recruited to oversee it at an estimated cost of £482 million.

This census will be more detailed than any previous ones. Daniel Hamilton, campaign director of civil liberties group Big Brother Watch said: "At 32 pages, the census includes intrusive questions on your proficiency in English, your health, when you last worked, the identities of your overnight guests and the type of central heating you have."

"This census is a monumental waste of time and money – a very intrusive way of duplicating information already available."

NO2ID has compiled a list of Ten Census Lies being promoted by the Office of National Statistics in its campaign:

#### 1. It's essential for government and business planning.

It's worse than useless because it's expensive, inaccurate and quickly out of date. Eric Pickles said (in opposition): "Many councils have been short-changed in government funding because the last census failed to record properly the number of residents." Cabinet Office Minister Francis Maude said (summer, 2010): "There are, I believe, ways of doing this which will provide better, quicker information, more frequently and cheaper."

#### 2. Our census data is trusted and respected worldwide.

Even if true, should we care? It is doing something essentially useless at a cost of £482m.

#### 3. It's a great source for genealogy.

Some 100 or 200 years ago there was little record of most people's lives, hence old censuses can be useful as the only documents available. It is ludicrous to assume the same will be true in 100 years' time.

#### 4. It's good for employment – it provides jobs.

Temporary ones. The money could be spent on something useful, supporting permanent jobs.

#### 5. Data is confidential for 100 years.

Census forms are kept secret from the public for 100 years, but EU legislation allows the 2011 census to be shared with all 27 member states. The Statistics and Registration Eservice Act 2007 created powers to share the information with public bodies, and "approved researchers".

#### 6. It will produce a high-quality estimate of the population.

The Office of National Statistics cannot assert the quality or accuracy of the answers it receives as no-one knows how many people lie in their return. The 2001 census is generally believed to have 'missed' about 900,000 men under 40.

#### 7. Everyone should be proud of playing their part.

There is no reason to be proud of being tallied like cattle and every reason to oppose the waste. In the 1800s, census officials had to be given police protection; in 1911 the suffragettes boycotted it; and in the 1950s TV publicity told people it wasn't "another bit of snooping".

#### 8. Communities can gain recognition.

'Official recognition' is not the same as being categorised. In 2001, 390,127 recorded their religion as Jedi. The Board of Deputies says the census underestimates British Jews, precisely because some of that community are nervous of officials knowing where they live.

#### 9. Completion is straightforward, convenient and secure.

New questions are more intrusive, requiring details of employers' addresses, and the details of any visitors to your house, and where else they might live. This is a direct danger to people who have sensitive occupations. The online version is a perfect cover for phishing attacks.

#### 10. Information is protected by layers of security.

Security is only as good as the shortest route to breaking it. It's impossible to guarantee no breach, and that data will be used legitimately. They cannot protect it; they shouldn't collect it.

Some questions are optional – so miss them if you wish.

*Ian Taylor  
Co-ordinator, NO2ID (Dover)  
Also member of Big Brother Watch.*



priced public transport. Our rail fares increased more than in other parts of the country this January and our bus fares are absurdly high.

A rational carbon plan must include making public transport a lot cheaper.

*Dr Geoff Meaden, Canterbury*

### Cuts in oil use way forward

Terry Hudson (Letters, March 6), clearly does not live in the same world as the current Government.

This week the Government launched a carbon plan, admitting for the first time that radical cutbacks in oil use are necessary. Kent Green Party agrees.

There are two choices: One – cut back oil use, air pollution, noise pollution, greenhouse gas emissions and imports of oil; or two – follow the Terry Hudson approach and pretend there is an immense supply of cheap oil.

Since the International Energy Agency has indicated that the world's cheap, recoverable oil

supplies peaked back in 2006, prices will rise, UK imports of oil are liable to go up and we need to make drastic cuts in oil use before expensive imported oil drags our economy down.

We are importing about 18 per cent of the oil we use now, and this will rise as our North Sea oil production continues to decline.

The carbon plan and related policies are under-funded, but there is at least some recognition that we will have to find ways to move people and freight without oil as fast as possible. Fortunately, there has been a lot of research on this.

If the Chancellor chooses to cut fuel tax, despite the drop in motoring costs of 14 per cent between 1997 and 2009, it would not be the first time a government had sent out contradictory signals.

How can people afford to cut car use when our rail fares are the most expensive in the world and bus fares are so high?

Terry Hudson needs to target the Government for its failure to ensure people have cheaper, easier-to-access public transport. And he can target them for the lack of a consistent policy to cut out fossil

fuel use from transport as quickly as possible.

Don't blame the Green Party for being the messenger; blame the Government for not getting the message a long time ago.

*Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party*

### Climate change evidence exists

So Phil Grainger continues with his Bible-based fantasies along with Donald Worsley's New Labour ones.

Mr Grainger tries to deny man-made climate change but provides no evidence, merely saying there have been floods before. But his reference to Noah and a world-wide flood takes the biscuit.

The facts are that climate change is clearly linked to man-made greenhouse gases over the last 200 years. If fossil-fuelled industrial activity hadn't taken place, the climate would not be changing like this.

The recent link to worsening flooding has been supported by



### Agency costs will outrage taxpayers

COUNTY Hall finance chiefs have made no secret of the fact that government cuts have forced them into a serious tightening of the purse strings.

Kent County Council must save £95 million this year and is planning to lose 1,500 jobs over the next three to four, so every penny spent in that time must be closely scrutinised to ensure Kent taxpayers are getting value for money.

It is therefore shocking that the authority should be paying more than £2,000 a day to secure the services of just three senior members of staff.

While it is understandable that certain positions cannot be left empty, workers who earn less than that amount per month will understandably feel aggrieved if it is they who end up losing their jobs in the name of council cost-cutting.

KCC has made much of the fact its current restructure programme will eventually save £20m. But that does not mean any costs which help deliver this saving – which some of the agency deals will – are fair game.

The council says it is paying "appropriate rates" to employment agencies, but it is doubtful whether the man in the street considers £2,000 a day "appropriate".

After all, he's been told often enough that "we're all in this together".

### Malcolm Jackson? Never heard of him

MICHAEL Jackson visited hundreds of destinations around the world throughout his illustrious music career.

Screaming fans followed the late King of Pop wherever he ventured, so it probably came as something of a relief when he was granted a private function room on a P&O ferry back in the late 1980s.

Nevertheless, we can't help but wonder if his trip to Dover made him feel less than the superstar he already was by that point.

After all, on how many other occasions was he accidentally called Malcolm?

a 20-year survey of increasing ice melt from Greenland and Antarctica just last week by the US Geophysical magazine.

Even if the warming were natural, we would have to take the same measures to cut our greenhouse gas emissions and switch to renewable energy sources and better UK flood protection as the Joseph Rowntree Trust report said recently.

Donald Worsley's lament that planning laws which prevented Lydd airport on Romney Marsh getting through unimpeded by a public inquiry are another denial, not only of the need to curtail our emissions but also to ride roughshod over local opposition to the expansion.

The answer to jobs and the deficit in this time of climate change and unnecessary cuts is to implement the Green New Deal, which could create up to a million decent jobs; and the Robin Hood Tax on financial transactions, which has just been approved by EU MEPs.

*Ray Duff, Folkestone*



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## BIRTHS

### ABRAM

Chris and Kerrie Abram of Ramsgate celebrate the birth of their daughter Amy Ann Abram on 1st March 2011.

### HEWITT

Neil and Annabelle celebrate the birth of Eve Lynne Hewitt, born 28th February 2011 weighing 7lbs 7ozs. With special love forever.

### WHITE

Ladd, mummy and daddy's little man. Love you Connor White.

### LING

Paul & Tanya of Hawkhurst are pleased to announce the birth of their handsome son Morgan Jack Ling on the 4th March 2011 weighing 7lb 1oz.

### LUNNEY

Taylor Patrick Lunney born 1st March 2011 weighing 9lb. Son to Darren Lunney and Shelaigh Jordan, brother to Connor and Reece.

### MATTHEWMAN

Will and Lindsey of Canterbury are delighted to announce the safe arrival of their beautiful son, Henry Arthur Andrew, born on 27th February weighing 7lb 5oz.

### MOWATT-DYKES

Jon and Harriet of Whitstable are delighted to announce the birth of

their beautiful daughter, Ella Grace, on 1st March 2011. Ella weighed 9lb.

### RITSON

Phil and Chloe of Herne Bay proudly announce the arrival of their beautiful son, Thomas James. Thomas was born at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, on 5th March 2011 at 1.55am and weighed 9lb 8oz.

### SHEPHERD

Luke Thomas Shepherd born on the 28th February 2011. Son of Mark and Lisa Shepherd.

### WINMILL

Melanie and Steven are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter Freya Clare. A sister for Luke born on 28th of February 2011 weighing 8lbs 14oz.

## DEATHS

### DUNN

Maureen Sylvia Patricia Dunn of Faversham, wife of Alan Dunn, passed away on 5th March 2011.

### HACKMAN

Iris Hackman passed away suddenly at her home in Dover on 5th March 2011, aged 74.

Loving wife of late Ron, much loved mum and nan who will be sadly missed by us all. The funeral will take place on Wednesday 23rd March, 12.40pm at Barham Crematorium.

### PAGE

Jeanette Page, nee Andrews, sadly passed away at the Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury, on 9th March 2011. Funeral will take place at midday on 23rd March at Charing Crematorium. She will be greatly missed by family and friends.

### SLUDDER-ALDRIDGE

Sonny Lee, the beautiful son of Darren and Kim, came into the world on 4th March 2011 but sadly was only visiting. Sonny will be joining his brother, Jordan, and remaining in the hearts of everyone.

**sheltered housing. She was independent in her own apartment, but she could also join others for coffee and social times in the communal areas.**

**It would also mean that the carers have less distance to travel, which would mean fewer cars on the road and the elderly who need a bit of help would be helped at better times.**

**We have a number of carers who visit the area where I live, and some elderly people are visited as early as 6am and put to bed at 4pm purely because the carer has so far to travel between clients.**

**I would be interested if a survey was done on this matter. I want the elderly to be safe and have company.**

*Irene Robinson, Allington*

## Lib Dem claim of hard work refuted

Inevitably, Kent Liberal Democrats will try to put a brave face on their slump in popularity as the country at large feels the effects of their dodgy deal with the Tories.

The irony is that there is plenty of brownfield land around. Look at Rochester Riverside, left undeveloped while patches of green are used up.

Now is a good time to simply stop and say we must do more to hold on to our green spaces.

*Derek Munton, Rochester*

## Elderly may choose sheltered housing

Having read the letter written by Siobhan Drane, Bupa's community affairs manager, I am wondering if any member of the Government read it also.

Why does the Government insist that the elderly wish to stay in their homes on their own?

My mother spent many happy years in

Reference to Shepway council's website reveals that Cllr Carroll does not sit on any committees, and of the last six full council meetings, he has made an appearance at only two. Hardly a record of diligent representation.

When the Lib Dems had control of Shepway council, the electorate was unfortunate enough to experience the feuding, back-biting and unprincipled opportunism which are the hallmarks of the party.

In Harbour ward, Folkestone, for example, at the local elections in 2007, two Lib Dems were

elected to serve, but within 12 months they fell out with the party hierarchy, joined the Conservatives but failed to seek voter approval at a by-election – a betrayal of those who in good faith had voted for them.

The only way to bring integrity back into local government in the South East will be to vote for a strong Labour presence on May 5. John Stockham, Folkestone

innocent residents who think it doesn't affect them may need to think again.

Unfortunately Ecotricity has yet to amend its website, which isn't a good start. Sellindge, here we go again.

Penny Knight, Sellindge

## Equality fight has a long way to go

This week in the European Parliament we marked the 100th anniversary of International Women's Day by voting on a report on gender equality and female poverty in the EU.

Since the movement began 100 years ago in America, the world has made incredible progress towards recognising women's rights.

Today women have the vote, they have employment opportunities that were never open to them before, and they have the independence to make choices, rather than being subjugated in a patriarchal society.

As a woman elected to an international parliament I celebrate these advances.

But much more progress is needed. In Europe there still exists a glass ceiling for women in the business world; differences in pay are unacceptable; and we still don't see many positive senior female role models.

A poll for International Women's Day found that six out of 10 women aged between 15 and 30 have experienced sexist remarks or behaviour, and nearly half do not think they are treated equally to men.

Progress is worse across the world. In some countries women are still fighting for electoral recognition and other abuses of women's rights still occur.

Rape is used as a weapon of war, female infanticide still occurs in large parts of Asia, female genital mutilation is practiced in many countries, and intolerable controls exist over women's dress and behaviour.

Women and men all over the world must offer to help women still struggling to assert their natural rights. My work in the European Parliament is involved in the fight to free women from the gender discrimination that still condemns them, and I know that many of my constituents will support me in this work.

Catherine Bearder, Lib Dem MEP for Kent

## Give communities the right of appeal

There is much to commend the Localism Bill for its intention to empower local communities to "take charge" of planning in towns, villages and countryside, but it is defective in one vital aspect.

A developer is permitted to appeal against a refusal of planning permission, but the community has no equivalent right of appeal.

We have asked the bill scrutiny committee to recommend a community right of appeal, as distinct from a general third party right, which would enable determined 'nimby's' to frustrate the system in pursuit of narrow self interest.

A community right of appeal available only to town councils, parish councils and neighbourhood forums as described in the Localism Bill, would only be permitted where consent had been granted contrary to the policies in the relevant local development framework and would be entirely within the spirit of localism.

Such a provision would go a long way to dispelling the scepticism many have about the Localism Bill.

*John Walker, chairman of the Kent Federation of Amenity Societies*

## Our ideas to save services rejected

There is little doubt that the 24 per cent cut in Thanet council's budget over two years will have major impacts on services.

The Labour opposition to the current Conservative administration has warned for years that staffing levels were out of control and that the council's financial reserves have been depleted to a dangerous degree.

It is frustrating to be proved right, as the council approaches the car crash that will hit next year, after the local elections.

In a genuine attempt to mitigate some of the worst of the coming damage, the Labour group proposed two cost-neutral changes to the Conservative budget.

The first of these was to impose a pay freeze on all staff while we are facing staff redundancies, and to use the money saved to reduce the number of redundancies in service areas seen as priorities by residents.

The second suggestion was for councillors to take a 20 per cent cut in special responsibility allowances, and to use the £20,000 per year generated to reinstate the community grants that councillors can use to support community groups.

This was constructive stuff from an opposition group, a genuine attempt to help.

It is a real shame that it was rejected out of hand.

*Cllr David Green, Ramsgate*

## Rethink views on wind farm plan

I attended the drop-in session on March 3, presented by Ecotricity, regarding the proposed installation of six wind turbines, each nearly 400ft high.

I was surprised to see that the Burch's Rough wind farm does not really appear to be near Burch's Rough, but more Otterpool Lane.

The company has since sent an email to all those who attended, confirming that the proposal will now be called Harringe Brooks Farm. All those

## Climb three peaks for heart research

National heart charity, Heart Research UK, is calling on everyone to join their flagship fundraiser, the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, on Saturday, June 18.

Now in its 15th year, the 25-mile walk covers three of the highest peaks in the Yorkshire Dales – Pen-y-Ghent, Whernside, and Ingleborough.

The challenge provides the opportunity to soak up some of the spectacular scenery that Yorkshire has to offer, get your heart pumping and help raise money for pioneering research into the prevention, treatment and cure of heart disease.

Walking regularly is excellent exercise to keep your heart healthy. It helps tone your muscles, improves circulation and can help you to relax.

Taking part in an organised event like this is a fantastic way to raise money and find the motivation to form a regular exercise routine.

This year, the charity is introducing a new team challenge trophy. Teams of six or more people will get the chance to win a brand new trophy.

Heart Research UK does not charge an entry fee, but asks that walkers raise as much money as possible.

For details of the Yorkshire Three Peaks Challenge, contact Heart Research UK on 0113 234 7474, email fundraising@heartresearch.org.uk, or visit www.heartresearch.org.uk/events/yorkshirethreepeakschallenge

*Barbara Harpham, national director, Heart Research UK*

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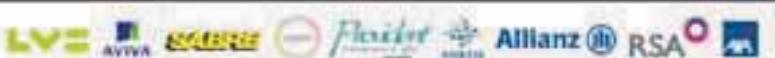
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# Review

## Those African blues

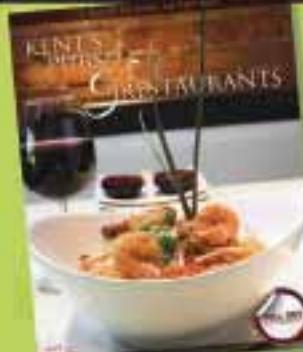
**LAYE SOW BRINGS HIS MUSIC TO THE WORLD FESTIVAL**



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# The rhythm of African life

## Laye Sow brings the beat of Senegal to festival



BY NICK AMES

AT the age of just 10, Laye Sow was wowing the audiences at a jazz festival in Senegal when he was spotted by the legendary singer Papa Seck, who hails from that country.

Recognising the vocal talent of this young boy, he arranged for him to be auditioned at the National Music School and Laye was soon following in the footsteps of legends such as Youssou n'Dour and Baaba Maal, learning singing, performing, writing, playing drums and the guitar.

After graduating, Laye became the lead singer at the National Orchestra, which is made up of the top musicians in Senegal. This government-sponsored orchestra acts as an ambassador for the country, supporting national celebrations and events and performing throughout Africa and internationally.

By the age of 22, he was a regular on TV and radio.

Now living in Folkestone, Laye is set to perform at Quarterhouse in the town on Sunday as part of the Equator World Music Festival.

"I have not played a proper show in my home town yet, so I am really looking forward to the chance," he said.

"My music is a fusion of African influences with reggae and salsa, while my lyrics sometimes go back to the days of slavery. My grandparents told me how their parents were actually slaves, taken by the Spanish, who ruled parts of Morocco at the time.

"But not all my lyrics are like that. Others are peaceful or against poverty and oppression. A united Africa is what I would like to see – together we could be so strong. Then there are my songs about children, they are the hope for the future."

"What I passionately believe is that nobody should put anyone else down."

### Nomadic

"I am a Fula [an ethnic group of West Africa which looks to a history with connections to the Pharaohs of Egypt and tribes in Ethiopia] and we are nomadic – we travel around, we are based all over the world."

"In my home town [Podor] we are based on both sides of the River Senegal, in Mauritania and Senegal, but the French decided that the river was the boundary. One of my songs is about the Fula and where you find them – which is just about everywhere in the world."

Despite his strong attachment to Podor, it was necessary for Laye to go to Senegal's capital Dakar to develop as a musician.

It was not particularly a happy time, though.

"It was hard because I went to the academy and I had no financial support. I came from a poor family and they could not help me," he said.

"My album Djamano came about because I have always performed acoustic music and, believe it or not, blues is African music. I played in hotels in Senegal as a one-man show for many years."

"The musical style of the album is blues and the pure vocal of my people in Futa. In Senegal, language is important because you are communicating information. The blues is the language of our ancestors who suffered and, through their pain, developed a musical



**INFLUENCE:** Laye Sow's music owes much to his Senegalese roots

style that we all know as the blues. The USA took up the blues, but really Africans were the first to perform music in that style.

"We have such a rich musical culture in Africa and it is very upbeat, you can really dance to it. And it tells a story."

At the age of 25, Laye formed Jelitara Futa, a band which played in Africa as well as internationally, including events such as WOMAD, Glastonbury and other festivals and venues across the world, including Mali's Festival In The Desert, which has seen performances by legends such as Robert Plant, former of Led Zeppelin.

Charlie Gillett, of BBC Radio, described Laye as: "An addictive new find – it's rare to hear such a perfect combination of voice and guitar."

He can trace his family history directly to

the Dogon in Mali, a culture steeped in the arts, mythology, music and dancing.

The ethnic group is also one of the most mysterious on Earth, with a long-standing knowledge of obscure astronomy, which has provoked much wild speculation.

But Laye now finds himself in Kent.

"What happened was, one of my friends is a lawyer," he said.

"He has friends who live in Folkestone, and we went to visit them and liked being by the sea. In fact, I liked the place a lot. My wife and I then came down here and bought the first house we saw."

"What I like about it, and I could not do this in London because I did not have enough space, is I have set up a studio in the basement."

"As well as playing, I have been doing some

workshops with young people. I have been doing some African drumming and teaching singing and dancing, as well as telling them about African culture."

Laye is set to release a double album of new songs this summer.

Also performing at Quarterhouse, from 1.30pm, on Sunday, March 20, are The Attab Haddad Quartet, who combine Middle Eastern sounds with flamenco and jazz.

ShivaNova play at 5pm, fusing traditional and contemporary Indian sounds.

To see and listen to Laye Sow, go to [www.yourkenttv.on youtube](http://www.yourkenttv.on youtube).

- See Laye Sow at Quarterhouse, Folkestone, from 1.30pm on Sunday, March 20. Tickets are £6 for adults; visit [www.quarterhouse.co.uk](http://www.quarterhouse.co.uk) or phone 01303 858500 to book.



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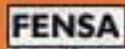
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## IN MY VIEW



By Joe Bill

## Mad Englishmen on trip to the sun

**MAD DOGS, SKY 1**

A WISE man once wrote that only mad dogs and Englishmen go out in the midday sun.

Sky TV's high-profile drama series *Mad Dogs* played on that idea as four English lads headed to Mallorca for sun, sea, sangria and the odd sinister setback.

*Mad Dogs* employed an all-star cast including Phillip Glenister and John Simm (*Life On Mars*), Max Beesley (*Hotel Babylon*) and Marc Warren (*Hustle*), who played a group of mates heading out for a holiday at a friend's villa.

Little did they know that their friend Alvo, played by Ben Chaplin, was embroiled in a war with the Serbian mafia involving drugs, cash and the stealing of one very large boat.

The boys began to relax during their stay with Alvo in his mansion only for a number of highly suspicious packages to arrive and odd goings-on to occur.

One drunken night, Alvo revealed to his guests that he had left his villa to them in his will just in case he died. Instantly, tensions in the group rose and squabbling ensued.

The script and dialogue between the crew was excellent and really contributed to making viewers feel that these four know everything there was to know about each other.

This made for a dramatic chemistry as their lives and pasts were slowly revealed to the audience.

The final straw came as the group went for an outing on a huge yacht only for them to find out that it belonged to a local drug-lord whom Alvo was keen to get one up on.

And herein lay the plot of the series. After Alvo's 'disappearance', the lads were left to fend for themselves while midgets brandishing guns, bent coppers and members of the mafia invaded the villa.

Few television dramas can really create the audience tension you would find in a film, but the hints of dark humour and the boys' insatiable desire to get out of the situation made for compelling, addictive television.

Created by Glenister and Beesley, *Mad Dogs* gained just under a million viewers for its first episode, despite airing on a paid-for satellite channel.

And Sky spared no expense in promoting what was described as its 2011 flagship show. The station commissioned three 30-second promotional trailers to be made by renowned director David LaChapelle. Not to mention the four heavyweight actors onboard.

*Mad Dogs* captured my imagination and even made the conversation list at the work water-cooler.

So, as the four-part series drew to end, I could not help but think that because of its quick success, there surely had to be a follow-up season commissioned... if nothing else than to stop Philip Glenister being typecast as DCI Gene Hunt.

• The DVD of the *Mad Dogs* series was released on Monday, March 7. RRP £12.99.

## CINEMA

**CHALET GIRL (12A)**

FELICITY Jones confirms her reputation as one of our brightest acting talents in Phil Traill's comedy about a young woman's struggle to vanquish her inner demons.

The Birmingham-born actress is luminous in *Chalet Girl*, effortlessly slaloming between slapstick and heart-tugging emotion in Tom Williams's predictable yet unabashedly crowd-pleasing script.

There is an honesty to the performance, which compels us to root for her embattled heroine as she searches for love across the class-divide.

Co-star Ed Westwick from TV series *Gossip Girl* slips into his familiar role as the privileged, pouting love interest.

With a minimum of effort on his part, there are palpable sparks of on-screen chemistry between the couple as romance blossoms on and off the piste.

Tomboy skateboarding prodigy Kim Matthews (Jones) abandons the sport she loves after her life is touched by tragedy.

She settles for a humdrum job in a fast-food restaurant so she can take care of her hapless father, Richard (Bill Bailey).

To earn more money, Kim accepts a position as an alpine chalet attendant at the exclusive St Anton resort.

Within minutes of arriving, Kim is put in her place by resident queen bees Georgie (Tamsin Egerton) and Jules (Georgia King).

However, the new girl makes an immediate impression on playboy Jonny Madsen (Westwick), son of wealthy, jet-setting couple Richard (Bill Nighy) and Caroline (Brooke Shields), who are renting the chalet that Kim has been hired to maintain.

Alas, he already has a snooty girlfriend, Chloe (Sophia Bush), who accompanies Jonny everywhere.

Love across the class-divide poses obvious problems, plus there is the additional distraction of a 25,000-dollar first prize in the Roxy Slopestyle Pro snowboarding challenge, which reignites Kim's competitive spirit.

Thankfully, Finnish snowboarder Mikki (Ken Duken) is on hand to help Kim transfer her skateboarding skills to the slopes.

*Chalet Girl* whisks up a cocktail of frothy romance and effervescent sporting triumph against adversity, garnished with an upbeat contemporary-pop soundtrack.

Jones is completely believable as the grief-stricken good girl who struggles to fit into her rarefied new surroundings.

Egerton and King summon two more posh harpies from the repertoire and Bailey milks easy laughs as the slovenly father who promises to bathe once a month.

Winter-sports fans will enjoy a cameo from American snowboarding champion Tara Dakides. She won gold medals at the Winter X Games, and while Traill's film doesn't quite soar to those dazzling heights, it's hugely entertaining and another assured step on Jones's deserved ascent to stardom.

**SUBMARINE (15)**

RICHARD Ayoade (*The IT Crowd*, *The Mighty Boosh*) makes an impressive directorial debut with this hysterical coming-of-age story set in windswept Swansea.

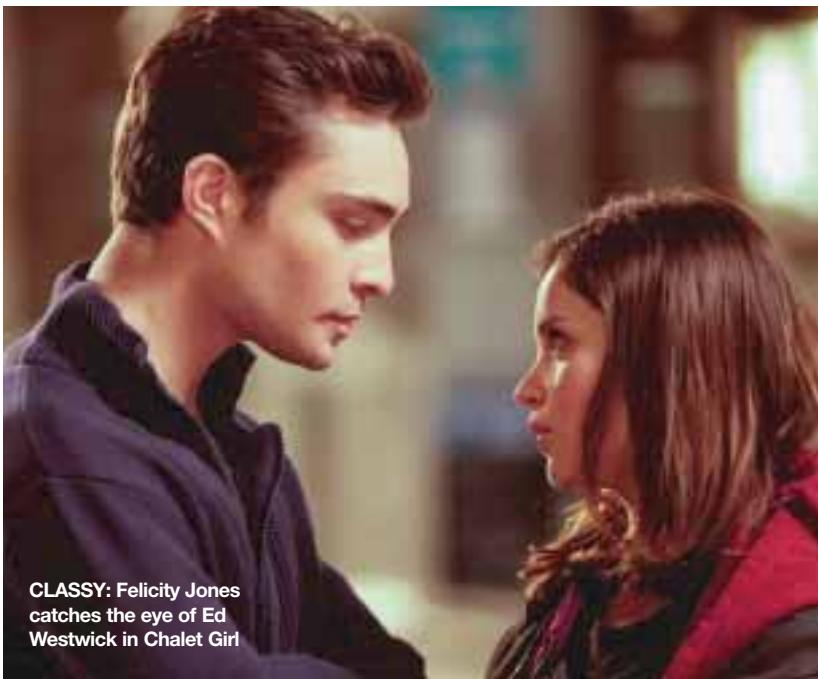
Based on the novel by Joe Dunthorne and laced with mordant wit, *Submarine* charts the messy sexual awakening of a 15-year-old misfit just as his parents' marriage comes apart at the seams.

The script spits in the eye of convention and gleefully sidesteps clichés, like when the hapless hero walks up to the object of his affections and her new boyfriend, and imagines a fairy-tale ending complete with upbeat pop soundtrack.

"This is the moment when you leave him and come with me," he professes, confident the girl will be his.

"Is it?" replies his beloved coldly. Love certainly hurts for the ill-equipped.

Schoolboy Oliver Tate (Craig Roberts) is our unreliable narrator – a dreamer determined to lose his virginity to spirited classmate Jordana (Yasmin Paige). Needless to say, the



**CLASSY:** Felicity Jones catches the eye of Ed Westwick in *Chalet Girl*

lad is delighted when his pestering eventually leads to a nervous kiss.

*Submarine* peeks beneath the duffel-coat of its fantasist protagonist and reveals the growing pains that propel Oliver to the cusp of adulthood.

There are some delightful touches, like the opening sequence during which the teenager fancifully imagines his own death and the outpouring of grief across Wales as his classmates come to terms with their devastating loss, organising candlelit vigils and flowers at the school gate.

Roberts is delightful as the innocent pup, who makes Jordana a mix tape and points out "I've included some break-up songs, in case [the relationship] ends... which it invariably will".

Cinematographer Erik Wilson captures Swansea in a chilly colour palette, ably supporting Ayoade, who delivers enough directorial flourishes to impose his personality on the film without ever distracting the eye from the performances.

He strikes the perfect balance between uproarious laughter and poignant reflection, without ever having to slather on the sentimentality.

**YOU WILL MEET A TALL DARK STRANGER (12A)**

WOODY Allen is telling fibs. You won't meet a tall, dark stranger in this London-set come-

dy of romantic errors because the titular man of mystery never appears.

Indeed, the failure to deliver on promises is indicative of this blundering yarn: no big laughs, no well-drawn characters, no satisfying resolution to emotional turmoil which almost tears two marriages apart.

*You Will Meet A Tall Dark Stranger* opens with a short burst of *When You Wish Upon A Star*, a twee prelude to the betrayals of unhappily married Alfie (Anthony Hopkins) and Helena (Gemma Jones), their daughter Sally (Naomi Watts) and her novelist husband Roy (Josh Brolin).

While Alfie has a mid-life crisis and abandons Helena for gold-digging ditz Charmaine (Lucy Punch), his wife seeks guidance from a bogus clairvoyant (Pauline Collins).

"I'm seeing a handsome stranger coming into your life," she blathers.

Helena swallows every word and is delighted when she meets bookshop-owner Jonathan (Roger Ashton-Griffiths). He is neither tall nor dark, but he is a stranger, so one out of three isn't bad.

However, Jonathan is still infatuated with his dead wife and Helena must somehow compete with the memory of the dearly departed.

It's hard to muster sympathy for Allen's characters, who are financially comfortable and settled yet seemingly determined to sabotage their happiness with pointless dalliances.

## WHERE TO WATCH WHAT'S ON

**ASHFORD CINEWORLD MULTIPLEX**

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242 High Street (Box office 0870 5050007)

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Market Square (Box office 01304 228000)

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9 Market Place (Box office 01795 591211)

**FOLKESTONE SILVER SCREEN**

Guildhall Street (Box office 01303 221230)

**GULBENKIAN THEATRE**

University of Kent (Box office 01227 769075)

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Victoria Hall, Rye Road (Box office 01580 754321)

**HERNE BAY KAVANAGH**

Herne Bay Leisure Centre (Box office 01227 365676)

**MAIDSTONE ODEON**

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**RAMSGATE GRANVILLE**

Victoria Parade (Box office 01843 591750)

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## ATTRACTI0NS

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ALL ages will enjoy the gardens of Beech Court, which are re-opening on Saturday, March 26.

The gardens are in Challock, in the heart of the North Downs, and feature informal planting and trees set across acres of parkland.

Beech Court has a rich history, with Roman swords and artefacts discovered at the site, while Richard III's illegitimate son is thought to have been employed as a labourer during its construction.

Meanwhile, Kentish history is evident in the oast-house, built at the turn of the century, which has been converted into tea rooms.



Home-cooking, plants, crafts, pet animals and a picnic site are all available to enjoy.

The gardens are open from 10.30am to 5.30pm every day except Friday.

Entry is £5 for adults; £4.50 for concessions and £1 for children.

For more information, visit [www.beechcourtgardens.co.uk](http://www.beechcourtgardens.co.uk).

#### SHOWS

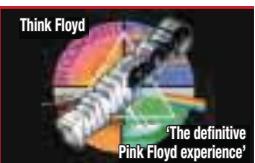
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# Fringe favourite Terry makes big impression in latest tour de force

PHYSICAL comic Terry Alderton will be bringing his energy, impressions and amazing sound-effects to Canterbury.

Following his appearance on Michael McIntyre's Comedy Road Show and sell-out runs in Australia and New Zealand, the Perrier Award-nominated comedian returns to the road with his critically-acclaimed 2010 Edinburgh Fringe Festival show.

#### Uninhibited

For years Alderton has contended with the voices in his head – now you see him bring them to life on stage, in an incredible evening of stand-up, uninhibited digressions and extraordinary caricatures.

Terry Alderton's TV credits also include The Royal Variety Performance, Comedy Store and The Stand Up Show.

His film credits include The Flirting Club, Keeping Mum, Black Ball and The Jam.

He is also the man behind internet sensations Danny Dire and Bloke Cast, while his short film Brahms And Liszt was in the running for an Oscar nomination.

Alderton will be appearing at the Gulbenkian Theatre on Friday, April 1, at 7.45pm.

Tickets cost £12 (£10 for Encore! Gulbenkian members). The show is suitable for people aged 16+ only.

Phone the booking office on 01227 769075, or alternatively you can go online to [www.thegulbenkian.co.uk](http://www.thegulbenkian.co.uk).



#### Watch this space for art exhibition

A NEW exhibition is being staged at the University of the Creative Arts in Canterbury.

Seven artists using sculpture, film, performance and text explore the role of the exhibition space and the college's building.

The exhibition will open with a new set of works by artist Ben Cain. These will include sculptures and sets of hand-made objects.

As part of the exhibition, Cain will be working with IVTVI dance company to interpret his art. On Monday, March 21, his work will reconfigure to accommodate two further works.

Aernout Mik's film, Glutinosity, explores the role of rioters and the authorities brought in to bring law and order.

In Jamie Shovlin's Mike Harte-Make Art, the artist presents a portrait of his college friend Mike, who struggled to make any work. Instead, he preferred to send letters and cuttings that he thought his friend would find interesting.

The exhibition will also feature three performance works. Laure Prouvost and



Francesco Pedraglio will give a performance on Friday, April 1, at 2pm. Prouvost's work presents the artwork as a shaggy-dog story.

At 2pm on Saturday, April 2, Sally O'Reilly is holding a workshop which invites participants to help write a new radio sitcom, and Cally Spooner will give an energetic performance lecture on Friday, April 8, at 5pm.

The Other Workspace exhibition runs until Friday, April 8. To find out more, phone the Herbert Read Gallery at the UCA Canterbury on 01227 817302.

# End of the world is now for Unfinished Business

THE Unfinished Business theatre company in Canterbury has just announced its latest production.

The Last Theatre is a new play written by one of the company's artistic directors, Danny Lee Pegg.

The play is set 300 years after the world we know it has been destroyed. Society is gone and only a few ragged people survive, wandering through England looking for somewhere to stop and be safe. They come across an empty building called The Last Theatre.

The company is made up of a selection of actors who all met at the University of Kent. The production will tour in and around Canterbury at the end of March.

Company members hope the play will be another hit after the success of their summer show The Best Panto and their winter show Table For Two.

Performances take place on Sunday, March 27, at the Darwin Missing Link building at the University of Kent; March 28 at St Mary Bredin Church, Canterbury; April 1 at The Arden Theatre, Faversham; and the Darwin Missing Link building again on April 2-3.

Visit [www.unfinished-business.org.uk](http://www.unfinished-business.org.uk).



## Christie whodunit

THE Willington Players present Agatha Christie's Go Back For Murder at The Hazlitt Theatre, Maidstone, from Tuesday to Saturday, March 22-26.

The play was adapted by Christie herself from her novel Five Little Pigs.

The action centres on Carla Crale, whose mother was convicted 15 years previously of the murder of her artist husband Amyas.

Convinced of her mother's mis-trial, Carla hires young solicitor Justin Fogg, whose father defended Crale at her trial, to assist her gathering together once more the witnesses of the crime.

Originally a Poirot novel, elements of the famous detective's conviction that it is possible to solve a mystery only with the powers of the intellect are still in evidence.

And the true murderer is to be identified solely by retrospective examination.

The Players, whose award-winning previous productions include Dancing At Lughnasa



and the farcical 'Allo 'Allo, will continue their run of charity nights from Tuesday, March to Thursday, March 22-24, with proceeds shared between Cancer Research UK, PDSA and Maidstone Riverside Rotary.

Book tickets at [www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk](http://www.hazlittartscentre.co.uk), or phone the box office on 01622 758611.

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### SHOWS

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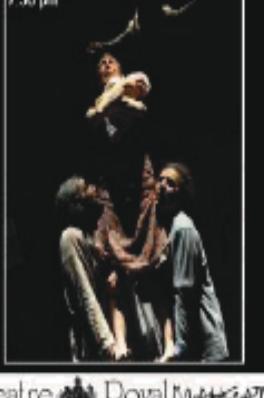
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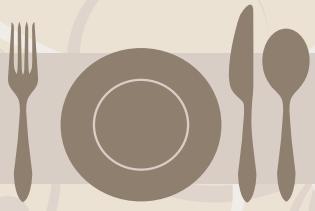
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Sunday 3rd April 2011

### Starters

Chef's homemade Tomato & Red Pepper Soup served with a warm Bread Roll

or

Prawn Cocktail served with Marie Rose sauce & Wholemeal Bread

or

Fanned Melon served with a Passion Fruit Sorbet

### Main Course

Served from our Carvery will include a choice of Roast Beef, Roast Gammon, Stuffed Chicken Breast wrapped in Bacon & a Homemade Steak & Mushroom Pie all served with a variety of Potatoes & seasonal Vegetables

### Desserts

Homemade Apple Crumble

or

Homemade Strawberry Gateau

or

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Ice Cream Sundaes (Chocolate / Strawberry / Toffee)

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[thewanatwestgate@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:thewanatwestgate@hotmail.co.uk)

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# Delicious fresh dishes are back on the menu

## ■ The White Hart, Hythe

THE White Hart is a family-run pub and restaurant that has recently re-opened.

Its new landlords are determined to restore this historic pub back to its former glory, so all the food is handled and prepared with care to produce exceptionally fresh and delicious dishes.

Home-baked bread is produced daily, and specialities of the house include pasta and cured hams and excellent char-grilled steaks.

An à la carte menu and Sunday roast is available, and booking is advisable.

In the bar, customers will find an excellent selection of real ales from all over Kent, including selections from the Hopdaemon brewery and Shepherd Neame.

Continental lagers, fine wines and Champagnes are all available, so there is a drink for every occasion.

The decadent desserts are all freshly made, along with a selection of fresh coffees that provide the ideal way to finish any meal.

The Steak Night every Tuesday has proven to be very successful and the popular Sunday roast is served from noon to 6pm.

Locals and those paying a visit from out of town are always assured of a warm welcome at this popular eatery.

Head-chef James Pearce specialises in Italian cuisine, and live music takes place on Sunday nights. There is a garden, and a new outside bar is planned for the summer of 2011, along with a dining area allowing customers to eat alfresco.

Meal times are midday to 3pm Monday to Saturday; 6pm-9pm Monday to Thursday; 6pm-9.30pm Friday and Saturday; and midday to 6pm Sunday.

• The White Hart, 71 High Street,

Hythe CT21 5AJ

Telephone: 01303 238304

Website: [www.thewhiteharthythe.co.uk](http://www.thewhiteharthythe.co.uk)

# out guide



To advertise in the next eating out guide, please phone **01303 817150**

**benefit from downloadable offers and display your menu online!**

# Meat-free meals for all occasions

## The Hutch, Canterbury

FOLLOWING its opening on October 15, 2010, The Hutch vegetarian restaurant in Palace Street, on The Kings Mile in Canterbury, continues to provide first-class and delicious locally-sourced food.

During that time, owner Andrew Hutchinson has estimated that more than 50 per cent of his customers are not in fact vegetarian – he puts that surprising statistic down to changing dining habits and the quality and taste of the food.

"Our philosophy is to ensure that the food we serve is as well prepared and presented as we can possibly make it. Freshness is the key and we source as much as we can locally, so there is as short a time as possible between harvesting and the plate."

"We also believe that when people choose to eat meat-free, then those diners should not feel deprived, so when they eat at The Hutch we try to make sure that we supply all the facilities expected of a city-centre restaurant."

"Our vegetarian Sunday roast has proved very popular, and we have hosted several birthday parties for different-sized groups."

"During the run-up to Christmas we supplied a four-course vegetarian alternative dinner that was well received, and in January we held a Burns Night celebration, complete with vegetarian haggis."

Shortly afterwards, on Valentine's



night, we were able to provide a sumptuous five-course romantic meal with music provided by local soprano Laura Kimpton."

The Hutch is open from Tuesday to Sunday for lunch and Tuesday to Saturday for dinner.

As a café bistro by day, there are light bites available, along with some more substantial lunchtime dishes.

At night the atmosphere changes to a more refined dining experience,

with a good selection on each of the three courses of the à la carte menu, including vegan and gluten-free options on every course.

Whenever you visit The Hutch, be sure to check out the specials board for a changing array of dishes that have inspired the chef on that day.

- **The Hutch, 13 Palace Street, Canterbury CT1 2DZ**
- Telephone: 01227 766700
- Website: [www.thehutchcanterbury.co.uk](http://www.thehutchcanterbury.co.uk)



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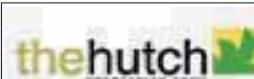
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66 Harbour Parade, Ramsgate Tel: 01843 583686  
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# Ideal places to give mum a special treat

## ■ Thorley Taverns

The Thorley Taverns Group is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year.

It has been working hard on the provenance its produce, aiming to source as much as possible in Kent.

"It's something we, as a company, feel very strongly about," said Mac Towe, general manager of the Broadstairs Pavilion On The Sands at Viking Bay, Broadstairs.

Thorley Taverns, based in Thanet, has 10 restaurants and all will be busy on Sunday, April 3.

"It is a really special day. We work hard preparing special menus and making all of our venues look fantastic for all the mums who are brought by their families to celebrate their special day," said Aimee.

"The only thing we'd like to encourage is for our clientele to book early to avoid disappointment."

• [www.thorleytaverns.co.uk](http://www.thorleytaverns.co.uk)



## CHEF RECOMMENDS

### The Farriers Arms

Starter: Foie gras with wild mushrooms and toasted brioche.  
Main course: Pan-roasted English-rose lamb with Dauphinoise potatoes with braised red cabbage and rosemary.  
Dessert: Glazed poached pear soufflé.  
Telephone: 01233 720444

### The Hutch

Starter: Platter of mixed tapas for two – roasted sweet peppers, butterbean-and-garlic puree, olives, mango salsa, pickled purple

aubergine and aubergine caviar with homemade focaccia bread.  
Main course: Cabbage parcel – local Savoy cabbage stuffed with mixed pulses and baked in a light tomato-and-tamarind sauce and served with boiled rice.  
Dessert: Espresso and hazelnut cake (gluten-free), made with coffee, chocolate and hazelnuts and served with a chocolate sauce and whiskey-laced cream if desired.  
Telephone: 01227 766700

### Shapla

Starter: Mixed platter (for two) – a combination of tangri chicken, piazi, samosa and mulai kebab.

Main course: Special lamb shank – cooked slowly with selected spices, rosemary, red wine, garlic and sun-dried tomatoes to enrich the flavour. Served with pilau rice and aloo peas (dry potatoes and peas).  
Telephone: 01227 262454

### The Swan at Westgate

Starter: Homemade leek-and-potato soup served with a warm bread roll.  
Main course: Homemade beef Wellington served with new potatoes and seasonal vegetables.  
Dessert: Baileys crème brûlée.  
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Sunday 12-4pm

# Food worthy of celebrity status

## RESTAURANT REVIEW

BY JAMES BENJAMIN

CELEBRITY cooks have moved on in recent years.

Where once all they had to do to top the Christmas book charts with a recipe collection was appear twice a month on Ready Steady Cook, today they need to do far more.

Gordon Ramsey is, for example, aiming for world domination with his brand of arrogance, facial scarring and the habit of saying "yes?" whenever asking someone to agree with him.

Jamie Oliver, on the other hand, is on a one-man mission to save our children from failures in the education system.

Richard Phillips meanwhile, has rather more modest aims. Granted, his 'celebrity' status tends to be more confined to Kent courtesy of a handful of appearances on daytime TV, and as yet he doesn't have the media punch to command a huge audience.

What he does have, however, is the knowledge that what people want from something with his name on it is an assurance of quality.

And rather than branding everything from toasters to supermarkets, he is keeping the focus on what he knows best – food and the delivery of it.

All of which brings us to the seaside town of Whitstable and the latest addition to his growing empire.

Already the man behind the swanky Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells and the modern Richard Phillips at Chapel Down in Biddenden, he has now moved into pubs – and where finer than one of the most perfectly sited in the county in the town which continues to attract day-trippers at a remarkable rate.



The Pearson's Arms by Richard Phillips (once the Crab & Oyster House) – perched a ten-yard stagger from the overrated and over-priced Royal Native Oyster Stores immediately opposite, is a classic pub which over the last decade has been something of a rollercoaster ride for the discerning diner.

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About five years ago it hit a new low – the food was dire, the pricing likewise and its reputation in tatters. Then new management came in. The bar on the ground floor was transformed and brought kicking and screaming into the 21st century. The food in the restaurant upped its game dramatically, and so did the prices. It was close, but that cigar proved elusive.

Now, however, Richard Phillips has got the balance pretty near spot on. The bar is pleasant and rustic. The staff bursting full of charm and ease.

And the food – well, let's just say the Sunday brunch menu is a shining example of quality, rustic, wholesome food at a price tag almost as mouthwatering as the dishes.

The deal is simple – a cut-down from the main menu offering three courses for £19.50 or two for £16.50.

With the core of the menu reliant heavily on local produce – and the main menu awash with seafood plucked from our shores – I plumped for the dressed crab, celeriac remoulade and dill toast. Putting aside the fact it arrives on a rather pretentious wooden board – a pet hate – the crab was beautiful, its subtle taste not lost in the dressing and, indeed enhanced.

My companion opted for the smoked salmon with brioche with horseradish cream and watercress. The salmon plump and full of flavour – something so often missing in this traditional dish.

On to the main course, and I opted for tradition – roast rump of 28 day beef with potatoes, vegetables and a red wine jus.

The meat was simply divine. Thick, light slices which melted in the mouth, off-set with just enough vegetables to make the taste buds tingle.

My companion went for the fish pie with melted Kentish cheese. Served in an enamelled dish, it was filling yet tasty.

Dishes so easily mundane, yet both here injected with sufficient care and thought to make them stand-out dishes.

By the time the desserts – a wonderfully bitter and light chocolate fondant and a sublime Brandy burnt cream, and not only do you feel full, but rather amazed when the bill turns up too.

It would, after all, be the natural assumption that a celebrity chef's menu is going to not be cheap. But for three courses, two glasses of a nice French Sauvignon Blanc, and two coffees, the final bill of £52 is perhaps the most refreshing dish of all.

I wanted to find fault, I really did, but the truth is, it was a pleasant dining experience and one I would not hesitate to recommend.

**Pearson's Arms by Richard Phillips,  
Horsebridge Road, Whitstable, CT5 1BT.  
Tel: 01227 272 005**

Review visits and pays for meals anonymously.

## BROGDALE

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## Women Seeking

**IF YOU'RE LOOKING** to meet or chat to someone look no further. **TXT CHAT83** to 6525 for chat with pictures, fun and safe service.

**BLONDE** tanned female, trendy, 46, GSOH, likes walks, pubs, nights in, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384852

**YOUNG** 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669

**SALLY** petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, tv, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665

**PROFESSIONAL** brunette, green eyes, petite, solvent, OHAC, looking for good adult companionship with like-minded male. Any status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362951

**ATTRACTIVE** slim well educated spontaneous blonde, 36, fed up with being alone WLTM keen tactile man who's up for a challenge. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362887

**NEW** to area, happy female with no ties and easy to please, looking for genuine manly man for friendship, dates and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362885

**28YR** old slim blonde female, varied interests, looking for uncomplicated friendship with open minded man. Status/looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362865

**ATTRACTION** slim well educated attractive female, 36, fed up with being alone WLTM keen tactile man who's up for a challenge. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362867

**WARM** well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477

**BETH** young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, happy size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291

**SAM** 37, attractive, size 16, friendly, bubbly, seeks sincere, genuine male, 35-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384334

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159

**ISABELLE** lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

**KATHY** long blonde hair, blue eyes, 50, likes mountown music, nights in/out, seeks gent, 47-62. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361797

**ORIENTAL** female, 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207

**BEAUTIFUL** slim, sexy female, 22, sees older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362201

**SALLY** independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

**NAUGHTY** but extremely nice 27yr old curvy, sensual, feminine female, seeking similar minded male for lots of fun. Any age can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361383

**GFT** blonde leggy ex lingerie model, 33, looking for good times with free thinking male. Single dad welcome/Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361381

**ATTRACTIVE** vibrant mid 60's female, independent, likes music, travel, socialising, seeks cultured energetic, cultural male. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384766

**35YR** old outgoing discreet female looking for someone who WLTM up for fun adult dates. Can accommodate. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361757

**FLIRTY** 30, very attractive confident slim blonde, looking for fun times with broadminded male. Single dad welcome. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361755

**VOLUPTOUS** attractive tanned, well groomed blonde 39, looking for good times, pampering, massages and discreet friendship. ACA. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361751

**GORGEOUS** looking lonely lass 29, OHAC, no ties, looking for some romantic liaisons with older male. ACA/ looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361731

**Hi** I am Sandy, an attractive 38yr old nurse looking for some of duty passion with affectionate open-minded man. Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361729

**LADY** slim, brunette, N/S, likes music, National Trust, theatre, days out, seeks sincere, honest gent, 48-60 for friendship, maybe more. Kent/Sussex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360633

**YOUNG** 54yr old female, slim, 5ft 3ins, seeks tall, honest, caring guy for friendship/relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362669

**SALLY** petite, confident lady, happy go lucky, likes dancing, walks, tv, seeks male/soul mate for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362665

**PROFESSIONAL** brunette, green eyes, petite, solvent, OHAC, looking for good adult companionship with like-minded male. Any status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362951

**ATTRACTIVE** slim well educated spontaneous blonde, 36, fed up with being alone WLTM keen tactile man who's up for a challenge. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362887

**NEW** to area, happy female with no ties and easy to please, looking for genuine manly man for friendship, dates and more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362885

**28YR** old slim blonde female, varied interests, looking for uncomplicated friendship with open minded man. Status/looks/Age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362865

**BLONDE** blue eyed single female, 34, discreet, OHAC, looking for fun friendship with confident man, 38-60 wanting fun times also. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362863

**JOYCE** attractive 40's feminine lady loves good times in/out looking for likeminded younger male for fun times. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362859

**SLIM** attractive, elegant Asian female, likes travel, restaurants, cinema, seeks caring, Asian male, 45-55 for friendship, possible relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361571

**NAUGHTY** but extremely nice 27yr old curvy, sensual, feminine female, seeking similar minded male for lots of fun. Any age can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

**MAIDSTONE** 46, seeks nice, stocky male up to 50 for friendship, maybe more. Heathrow. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361701

**SALLY** independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

**PETTY** woman, slim, black, widow, 39, energetic, seeks white, solvent male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360695

**CURVY** sophisticated Irish lady, 36, new to the area and lonely, WLTM male up to 60yrs for companionship, cosy nights in/out. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361379

**KAREN** tall slim feminine, 40, WLTM genuine male who will keep me warm and cosy up for romantic nights in/out. ACA. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361357

**42YR** old female, likes walks, animals, theatre, cinema, seeks male for companionship/LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 351577

**CARING** young 62 petite blonde, seeks someone to share doing things with, theatre, dancing and perhaps nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359761

**FAYE** N/S, non drinker, lots of love to give, seeks special, genuine, honest male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 349309

**PATRICIA** outgoing, confident, feminine, warm, friendly, smart, good company, attractive, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347215

**FUN** loving student, 21yrs, seeks male of any age for fun in London, can travel and accommodate, I love a risk and having fun! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356981

**FOREIGN** beauty, long, hair, 20's yrs, seeks older male who can spoil someone like me. London area. Discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356967

**WOMAN** needs clean, smart, tidy white male, 42-50 for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361049

**FEMININE** lady who knows how to treat her man seeks strong minded male to care for, any area London/Surrey/Kent. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356985

**SEALLED** with a kiss, 37yr old single mum, blonde hair, blue eyes, curly, likes sunshine, travel, looking for Knight in shining armour, to make me laugh and spoil me. Folkstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 355543

**LADY** 44, GSOH, short, curly hair, seeks good guy for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353591

**MALE** Guardian reader? Art? vivacious female, 61, happy in own skin, seeks N/S sociable, warm, loving man. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350665

**WARM** well educated 60's female, seeks similar gent to enjoy the simple things of life. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360477

**BEST** young minded widow, 65, 5ft 5ins, size 14, N/S, many interests, seeks sincere, honest gent for friendship who might admit to some aching bones. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 344291

**SAM** 37, attractive, size 16, friendly, bubbly, seeks sincere, genuine male, 35-50. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384334

**ATTRACTIVE** lady, seeks kind, solvent male for romance and possibly love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 360159

**HONEST** caring, genuine female, 44, GSOH, likes meals out, nights in, seeks similar male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359467

**ISABELLE** lovely lady, genuine, honest, loving, caring, 68, N/S, non drinker, slightly disabled, WLTM male for love, companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 347305

**KATHY** long blonde hair, blue eyes, 50, likes mountown music, nights in/out, seeks gent, 47-62. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361797

**ORIENTAL** female, 27, seeks older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362207

**BEAUTIFUL** slim, sexy female, 22, sees older gent, 65 plus to take care of me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362201

**SALLY** independent, intelligent, confident, caring female, seeking a similar soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

**NAUGHTY** but extremely nice 27yr old curvy, sensual, feminine female, seeking similar minded male for lots of fun. Any age can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361383

**GFT** blonde leggy ex lingerie model, 33, looking for good times with free thinking male. Single dad welcome/Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361381

**ATTRACTIVE** vibrant mid 60's female, independent, likes music, travel, socialising, seeks cultured energetic, cultural male. Maidstone. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384766

**35YR** old outgoing discreet female looking for someone who WLTM up for fun adult dates. Can accommodate. Any age/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361757

**FLIRTY** 30, very attractive confident slim blonde, looking for fun times with broadminded male. Single dad welcome. Can accommodate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361755

**VOLUPTOUS** attractive tanned, well groomed blonde 39, looking for good times, pampering, massages and discreet friendship. ACA. Any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361751

**GORGEOUS** looking lonely lass 29, OHAC, no ties, looking for some romantic liaisons with older male. ACA/ looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361731

**CRYSTAL** 5ft 6ins, long dark hair, hazel eyes, olive skin, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 383374

**49YR** old lady, honest, sincere, easygoing, likes a laugh, looking for love. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 350509

**ATTRACTIVE** caring, interesting black lady, seeks educated, genuine, white male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358937

**ELEGANT** professional, black lady, 5ft 3ins, medium build, likes dancing, meals out, cinema, reading, seeks intelligent, professional guy for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339581

**LONELY** female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359

**TINKERBELL** seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356787

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**CUDDLY** curvy size 14 plus female looking for very assertive gent, 59-64 for daytime adult fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358729

**JENNY** 5ft 4ins, black hair, green eyes, size 12-14, likes cinema, nights out, dancing, gardening, walks, holidays, seeks tall, slim male, 40's for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 339065

**BEDFORDSHIRE** female, 39, HIV positive, seeks male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 338477

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**ASHFORD** lady sought by genuine, loyal male, likes music for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362249

**ATTRACTIVE** slim single mum, 44, seeks tall male, 50-60. Kenilworth, likes pub, family, friends, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 358579

**FUN** loving professional male, 42, independent, likes good things, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 359801

**MIDDLE** aged male, 57, 5ft 9ins, likes football, gardening, seeks female, 55-60, likes walking, seeks male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362039

**BARRY** 47, 6ft, well built, seeks female for wineing, dining and fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362931

**ATTRACTIVE** blonde, blue eyed male, 47, HIV positive, seeks genuine, sincere, GSOH, likes dancing, meals out, cinema, seeks male for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362931

**SINGLE** professional, good looking Indian male, 5ft 7ins, vegetarian, 51, young looks, seeks younger white female for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362927

**RICHARD** 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, cooking, theatre, country walks, meals out, cinema, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

**TALL** dark, professional male, seeks similar female, 32-44 for friendship, nights out and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 384668

**PAUL** likes meals out, walks, seeks young female for relationship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361607

**RICHARD** 46, dark hair, blue eyes, 5ft 6ins, likes holidays, cooking, theatre, country walks, meals out, cinema, seeks female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361575

**DECENT** looking male, 38, likes pub, music, restaurants, nights in/out, seeks female, 20-40 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 361609

**BRIAN** 48, 5ft 9ins, medium build, looks attractive, easygoing, likes cooking, walks, music, films etc for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362315

**DANNY** 46, workaholic, seeks female for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362418

**DAVID** 61, likes sports, reading, writing, seeks female. Bushey. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362779

**MATURE** Caribbean gent, seeks articulate female who likes music, dance and London lifestyle. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362491

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**PETER** 62, varied interests, no ties, reliable, understanding, romantic, seeks cuddly female, 50-67. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 362943

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**VICKY** attractive, kind, down to earth, black British, likes travel, writing, reading, cooking, socialising, seeks generous, good man who is family orientated. Essex. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353033

**BABE** seeks mature white male for discretion, you won't be sorry I know how to treat my man. Any area London Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356997

**RECENT** professional, black lady, 5ft 2ins, medium build, N/S, seeks slim, attractive female to share the nice things in life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356359

**LONELY** female, petite, attractive, size 8-10, blue eyes, long hair, likes historic places, holidays, meals out, seeks honest, genuine male for friendship initially. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 353840

**TINKERBELL** seeks Peter Pan, I'm 36, 5ft 3ins, size 8-10 and am looking for a tall strong man who can connect and make me laugh. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 356787

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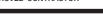
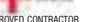
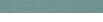
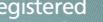
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To demonstrate the quality and design of the collections, Explore Living has unveiled a three-bedroom showhome.

There is an increasing demand for houses in the Ramsgate area, a reflection of the housing market in the UK.

Explore Living has responded with the new homes at New Meridian Village to accommodate this demand and provide perfect homes for families, couples and first-time buyers.

The showhome features a spacious open-plan living/dining and kitchen area with double patio doors that open on to the garden.

The master bedroom has built-in wardrobes and an ensuite bathroom and the two other bedrooms are perfect for guests or children.

John Inglis, Explore Living sales and marketing director, said: "Not only are our homes competitively priced, but they are inclusive of all appliances and have modern features such as ergonomically-designed kitchens and underfloor heating."

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# £7.5 billion boost to UK housing market

FIGURES released by one of the world's top property companies showing cash available for housing development have given a huge lift to the industry.

There is more than £7.5 billion aimed at residential development and investment in the UK from a variety of domestic and international funds, according to real-estate advisers CB Richard Ellis.

Some of the available money has been earmarked for regeneration schemes in selected areas – but other cash can be made available where the demand is there.

The news is a boost for both developers and the property market as it means house-building schemes that might otherwise have been threatened by the economic downturn can go ahead.

Experts say that investors can realise high returns of more than 20 per cent on equity employed and there has been a noticeable £1 billion pick-up in the level of potential res-

By **NICK AMES**

idential investment funds in the past quarter.

Schemes that will sell to owner-occupiers and buy-to-let investors are the current choice, reflecting a perceived security of return with demand in those areas.

The level of investment available for residential stock could make a significant difference to current levels of house-building.

Most of the money originates from UK-based funds, but about a quarter comes from North America, with opportunity funds making up the largest category of investors, closely followed by pension funds.

### Investment

The total level of interest from investors in the UK residential market relative to the overall level of investment and development is clearly significant, but pinpointing the investors that are ready to commit and at what cost of capital is the key.

"Many of these investors are keeping a close eye on the residential market," said Chris Lacey, executive director at CB Richard Ellis.

"There have been a number of instances where investors have dipped their toe in the water through preferred residential partner arrangements with niche developers because there are a surprisingly small number of schemes that funds can readily commit to."

"The most sought-after schemes are at the prime end of the market where the opportunities are hardest to find."

CB Richard Ellis's first quarterly UK residential investment monitor revealed that £1.29 billion had been assigned outside of central London up to the M25, £980 million was aimed at national development excluding London, and £2.7 billion was earmarked for consented schemes that will sell to owner-occupiers and buy-to-let investors.

It also stated that £2.9 billion was aimed at speculative planning, with investors interested in areas outside London favouring this type of investment.

underfloor heating, optional integrated sound system with ipod dock, pre-wiring for Sky+ and flat-screen TVs, digitally-controlled showers and solid concrete floors and staircases.

Residents of New Meridian Village will also benefit from 'Home Zones', where roads are laid out to discourage speeding.

The development is a few minutes from Ramsgate town centre and the high street, while the seafront, sports centre and marina are just a short distance away.

Ramsgate train station provides a direct high-speed service to London St Pancras in only 76 minutes.

Prices for the two-bedroom houses within the Seattle collection start at £162,995 and prices for the three-bedroom houses within the Portland collection start at £172,995.

For more details, phone the marketing suite on 0845 8721004, email newmeridianvillage@exploreliving.co.uk, or alternatively visit www.exploreliving.co.uk.

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TMS are delighted to offer For Sale this distinctive executive detached house of character offering spacious accommodation to include three bedrooms with lounge, study, conservatory, kitchen/dining room, bathroom and two w.c. Presented in superb order throughout there is an approx 90ft depth rear garden and a garage plus large driveway provide ample off street parking. Featuring solid wood doors and newly fitted replacement double glazing viewing is considered essential to appreciate this rarely available home and highly desirable location.

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Detached Two Bedroom Bungalow  
Two Reception Rooms  
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**Broadstairs - £155,000**

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End Terrace Three Bedroom House  
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50ft Rear Garden

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Approx 60ft x 40ft Garden  
Off Street Parking

**Broadstairs - £235,000**

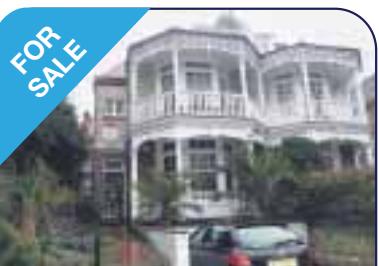
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Gardens To Front & Rear

**Ramsgate - £249,995**

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Day 1 - The Ramada Hotel & Resort, Maidstone - Monday, 4th April - 11am.

Day 2 - The Hilton Brighton Metropole - Tuesday, 5th April - 11am.

Day 3 - The Rose Bowl, Southampton - Wednesday, 6th April - 11am.

Day 4 - The Legacy Plymouth International - Thursday, 7th April - 11am.

Day 5 - The Penventon Park Hotel, Redruth - Friday, 8th April - 11am.



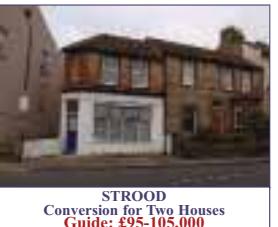
**ROCHESTER**  
Rural Cottage  
Guide: £100-110,000



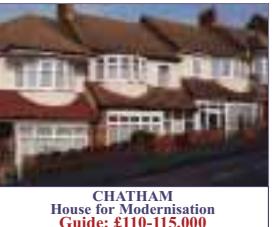
**HERNEHILL, WHITSTABLE**  
2.8 Acres Land with Potential  
Guide: £55-60,000



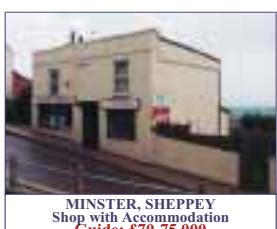
**GILLINGHAM**  
House for Improvement  
Guide: £60-65,000



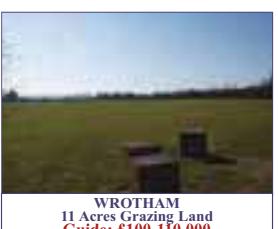
**STROOD**  
Conversion for Two Houses  
Guide: £95-105,000



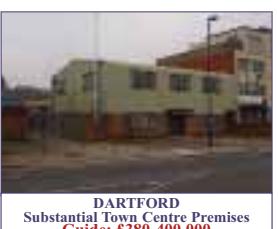
**CHATHAM**  
House for Modernisation  
Guide: £110-115,000



**MINSTER, SHEPPEY**  
Shop with Accommodation  
Guide: £70-75,000



**WROTHAM**  
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**PLATT, SEVENOAKS**  
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**SITTINGBOURNE**  
Commercial Invest Let At £40,000 p.a.  
Guide: £420-440,000



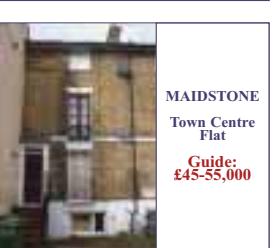
**GRAVESEND**  
House for Improvement  
Guide: £95-105,000



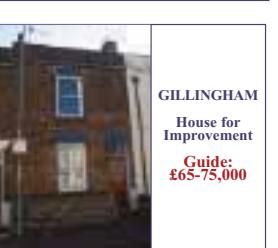
**CHELSFIELD**  
Cottage for Improvement  
Guide: £140-150,000



**MAIDSTONE**  
Detached Bungalow with Potential  
Guide: £230-240,000



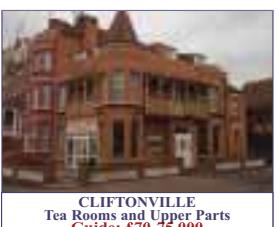
**MAIDSTONE**  
Town Centre Flat  
Guide: £45-55,000



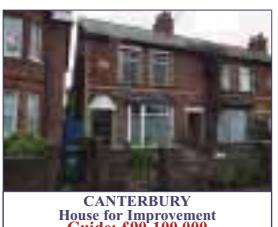
**GILLINGHAM**  
House for Improvement  
Guide: £65-75,000



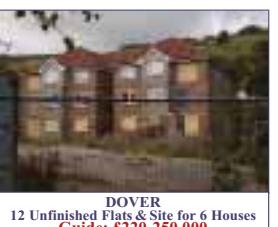
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Detached Bungalow for Total Refurb  
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**CLIFTONVILLE**  
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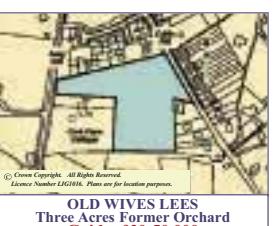
**DEAL**  
Three Bedroom Semi with Garage  
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**WESTGATE**  
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**MARGATE**  
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Guide: £110-120,000



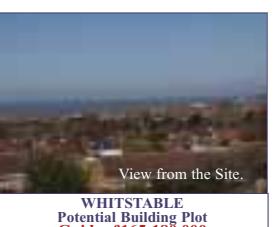
**RAMSGATE**  
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Photographs of Clifton Baths-  
later The Lido

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A postcard addressed to a  
'Miss Dolly Bird' (1913)

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**TO RSVP FOR TALK or TO GET INVOLVED IN THE COMMUNITY PROJECT**  
**smokeandmirrors@theatreroyal.org.uk OR call Joanna on 01843 282956**

**SMOKE & MIRRORS**



# Keep Kent Working!

2011 Campaign It's jobs for Kent

## Work places needed for apprentices

BUSINESSES in Swale have been challenged to recruit 100 young people to apprenticeships by the end of the year.

The Year Of The Apprentice scheme, launched by Swale council in partnership with Kent County Council and the Kent Association of Trading Organisations, will ask 100 local employers to do their bit to help boost the economy.

A business breakfast was held at Hempstead House, Sittingbourne, on Wednesday to officially launch the project.

Swale council's cabinet member for regeneration, learning and skills, Cllr John Wright, was among those in attendance.

He said: "While helping to combat unemployment in the borough, apprentices can also allow your business to access the new skills, ideas and enthusiasm that young people can provide to help you thrive and retain a competitive edge."

"Unemployment among young people is an issue affecting Swale, and apprenticeships can provide an ideal route through which young job seekers can be given new opportunities."

"The process of employing an apprentice now is not as time-consuming as some may have found in the past. Placing the right candidates to the right workplace is key."

"Help yourselves by choosing to employ an apprentice."

Workshops run by the Kent Apprenticeship Service will start next week to provide businesses with more details about what taking on an apprentice means.

The first will be held at the UK Leisure Club, Sittingbourne, from 9.30-11am on Monday, March 21.

The Sheppey Healthy Living Centre will host the second workshop at the same time on Wednesday, March 23, with the final being held at Brogdale Farm, Faversham, on Monday, March 28.

For more information or to book, call Catherine Harvey on 01795 417216 or email catherineharvey@swale.gov.uk.

By STEVE KNIGHT  
steve.knight@kosmedia.co.uk

KENT'S vocational training centres have been praised in a report that is otherwise highly critical of skills-based learning in the UK.

The Government-commissioned review by education expert Professor Alison Wolf found that hundreds of thousands of young people were on vocational courses which did not lead to university or a job.

But the same report recognised Kent's training centres as "beacons of excellence" that ensure young people can access the specialist programmes they want, ranging from engineering and construction to catering and social care.

Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter said: "We welcome this report, which reinforces the innovative work that we have been developing over a number of years."

"I strongly believe that one size does not fit all when it comes to education, which is why Kent has championed and pioneered vocational education alongside the traditional academic subjects."

There are currently standalone vocational centres in Dover and Thanet, with two in Swale and one due to open in Maidstone.

The rest are based in schools, including Thamesview School in Gravesend, Herne Bay High School, the Towers School in Ashford, and Pent Valley in Folkestone.

Cllr Carter said: "There are more than 8,000 students in Kent benefiting from this trail-blazing programme, learning skills which employers in the county are crying out for."

"Industry is at the heart of the vocational programmes and we are working with leading firms to tailor these courses."

"We are developing a skilled generation ready for the world of work, and I would be delighted to showcase our programme to other councils and business leaders."

The Wolf report recommends a radical shake-up of vocational education in England, and says all pupils should study a core of academic subjects until they are 16.

At the moment some qualifications count



**SHINING EXAMPLES:** Report praised skills-based training at Kent's vocational centres

for the equivalent of four GCSEs, which the report says provides "perverse incentives" for students to be steered into notching up strings of qualifications which may not help them into work or higher education.

It adds: "The staple offer for between a quarter and a third of the post-16 cohort is a diet of low-level vocational qualifications, most of which have little to no labour market value."

"Among 16-19-year-olds, the review estimates that at least 350,000 get little to no benefit from the post-16 education system."

The Wolf report calls for more high-quality apprenticeships for young people and for employers to be part-subsidised to offer them.

It also says it should be made easier for teachers from further education colleges to teach in schools.

**WHAT** is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working?

Are you running an apprenticeship scheme to attract young workers? Are your employees being sent on training courses to aid their personal development? Or are you funding a university scholarship to help find the businessmen and women of the future?

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# Rotarians help youngsters pick up the language

VOLUNTEERS from the Rotary Club of Ramsgate are helping to teach English to foreign students at the Marlowe Academy.

For the past year the Rotarians have spent one day a week coaching small groups of students learning English as an additional language.

Youngsters from as far afield as Iraq, Afghanistan, Albania, Poland and Lithuania have benefited from the scheme so far, thought to be the first of its kind in Thanet.

Rotarian David Blackwell said: "When you consider what some of the children have been through to get here, it is up to us to give them the support so they can be effective members of the community."

"If we can help with reading, afterwards comes qualifications and from there comes a job so that they can enjoy a role in local society."

"So with a bit of support they have a chance, an opportunity."

Some of the pupils at the Marlowe have little or no formal education in their own language, so staff are charged with not only teaching them English but also how to apply it to other subjects and in exams.

Many of the foreign students go on to achieve great success at university.

Former Rotary president Paul



**COACHING:** Rotary Club volunteers are helping out at the Marlowe Academy

Parpworth said: "It is amazing how quickly they learn. There's one boy in particular from Albania who picks it up very quickly and easily."

"Some of the Afghan boys could not even read or write in their own language."

"We strike up a particular bond with students. One Afghan boy, Haroon, came to our club with Marlowe principal Ian Johnson about 18 months ago. He even came out with our Christmas float helping to collect money for charity."

"Recently he's gone on a course at the fire station, so his English has improved and maybe that is something with which we have helped."

## Honda experts' visit gets pupils thinking

CHILDREN from the Archbishop's School in Canterbury, took part in a 'thinking skills' workshop delivered by education experts from Honda.

The Japanese car manufacturer runs a School of Dreams programme using innovative learning techniques to help young people to understand the importance of pursuing their ambitions.

Children from local primary schools also took part in the workshop, which was held on Tuesday and Wednesday.

A Honda spokesman said: "The workshop is challenging but great fun. Teachers and pupils work at the same level in small groups, learning how to turn their dreams into reality by learning from real-life examples of people who already have."

The School of Dreams programme has been delivered in more than 100 schools over the last three years, directly engaging about 5,000 students and educators.

Visit [www.schoolofdreams.co.uk](http://www.schoolofdreams.co.uk) for more information.

## Clinic on shortlist for law gong

THE Kent Law Clinic has been shortlisted for the 'best contribution by a law school' category in the LawWorks and Attorney General Student Awards.

With offices at the Canterbury and Medway campuses of the University of Kent, the clinic teaches law students by providing a free legal advice and representation service to local people in need.

Highlights of its achievements during the

past year include more than a dozen students helping a group of villagers to successfully defend their use of four public rights of way through ancient woodland south of Canterbury.

The Law Clinic has already won Attorney General awards in the best student and best team categories, and will be hoping for further success on March 30 when the awards are held at the House of Commons.

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## Full Time Ironing Supervisor

## Full & Part Time Cleaners & Ironers REQUIRED

Maidstone area. Driving Licence Essential.

Please call Vicky 01622 870111 or e-mail iron-maids.co.uk

## MONTAGU COURT CLIFTONVILLE

Requires

## Senior Carer. Must have NVQ 2 or above.

## Also Day & Night Flexi Carers

Call Alan or Jill on 01843 220090

## SHAMPOOIST/RECEPTIONIST

16 Hours per week.  
Must be flexible with hours

Contact Tracy Hildrew on: 01732 750999 or email tracy@thildrew.orangehome.co.uk or tracy.hildrew@btconnect.com



## TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

### Job Description Summary:

- Fitting tyres to alloy wheels
- Wrapping finished wheel/tyre units
- Handling incoming goods
- Preparing outgoing goods
- Maintaining equipment

Must be experienced in tyre fitting, essential.

Hours: 37.5 hours per week (9:00 - 5:30 Mon-Fri)

Holiday Entitlement: 28 days

Salary: £8.50 - £9.50 per hour - negotiable dependant on experience.

### Location:

Unit 17, Connect 10, Foster Road, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0SH

For more information please contact

Toby Woods/Gary Matthews

Tel: 01233 503006 or email: sales@rimstyle.com



Due to an increased order book we are looking for the following personnel:

## Jig Borer/Jig Grinder Wire Eroder/Spark Eroder

Please send C.V to Ray Baigent

Email r.baigent@aerospace-tooling.co.uk

Tel: 01634 233216

## STORES PERSON

Required by a local Sevenoaks Company for a variety of duties including the control of a Small Stores Warehouse, some assembly/fabrication work.

The individual will need to be flexible and organised.

This is a full-time position, to apply please telephone 01732 743901

## NATIONAL CHILDREN'S CHARITY

Require

## Enthusiastic fund raisers/instore promotion people/collectors

To work at venues in the Kent area

Full/part-time including weekends.

Start £6.50 p.h. plus bonus. Must drive.

Please call Sue: 07809 714252

## EXPERIENCED CHEF/COOK

Looking for a talented chef to create interesting, innovative menus

Must have:

- passion for food with knowledge of Kentish produce
- understanding of budgets, stock management
- Award in Food Safety in Catering Level 2

If you have the skills, enthusiasm and passion required, please telephone 07973559729

# Find a job online



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## The future of local media

Be a part of an exciting and growing team developing our portfolio across Kent

## B2B Media Sales Executives – Field Based x 2

## Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells

## Full Time permanent - East Kent

We are looking for a highly motivated and experienced sales professional to drive new business and manage existing clients.

The ideal candidate should be comfortable with all stages of client relationship management and should be proficient at sourcing leads, securing new revenue, delivering presentations, writing proposals, negotiating and closing.

The person we are seeking will be an energetic and enthusiastic individual with excellent sales skills, a self starter; tenacious and will have excellent verbal and written communication ability. You will need to demonstrate a proven sales track record, preferably from within media (although this is not essential,) will have a good understanding of the benefits of printed, online and live media. Knowledge of the Kent marketplace would be beneficial.

## Telephone Sales Executive Ashford

You will play a key role in selling advertising across our market leading portfolio of newspapers, websites and mobile products. Candidates should possess a track record in telephone sales, combining excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ideally you will have a media sales background, although this is not essential as full training and support is provided.

## Recruitment Executive Ashford

You will ideally have a recruitment agency background, possess a track record in telephone sales and negotiation, be well organised and combine excellent communication skills, tenacity and the ability to build relationships. Ultimately, we need an articulate and assured recruitment professional.

We offer an excellent basic salary plus generous bonus scheme, ongoing training and career development, five weeks' annual leave, contributory pension and life assurance scheme (after qualifying period) and all the benefits of working for a large media organisation. All candidates must have own transport.

### Please apply with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Christine Davidson, Commercial Director

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,

Apple Barn, Hythe Road,

Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS

Or by email christine.davidson@kosmedia.co.uk

## Media Sales Executives - Field Based x 2

## Full Time permanent - Tunbridge Wells

## Full Time permanent - Maidstone & Surrounding

KOS Media look for highly motivated people to create and sell multi-media solutions in our market leading portfolio including newspapers, magazines and digital sales.

We believe and pride ourselves in good customer service, professional marketing solutions and excellent business relationships. We provide innovative ideas that will in return give our clients real value and response.

Looking after and growing an existing customer base along with finding new business will form the basis of the job role. You will need to be a self motivated individual with sales experience, good communicator, tenacious and hard working to succeed in this environment.

### Please apply in writing with your CV and covering letter in the first instance to:

Ynez Coton, Commercial Director,

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA

Apple Barn, Hythe Rd, Smeeth, Ashford Kent. TN25 6SS

Or email ynez.coton@kosmedia.co.uk

## Senior reporter

Archant KOS Media is looking for an experienced, enthusiastic, self-starter in a rare opportunity to join our senior reporting team. Providing balanced, insightful, engaging copy week in, week out for our award-winning weekend titles Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday. As well as our midweek e-editions and websites, the role is demanding but richly rewarding.

You will have worked as a senior reporter within the local or national press or have recently passed your NCE exams and will be prepared to take an integral, responsible, role within a friendly newsroom. You will be capable of bringing in off-diary exclusives and be full of ideas.

Salary is competitive.

## Junior reporter

Archant KOS Media is seeking a junior reporter, in a rare opportunity to join its editorial team. Ideally you will have taken your NCE preliminary exams, but training will be provided.

You must be highly motivated, have a determination to learn quickly and succeed, and be prepared to play a key role in a friendly newsroom. You must not be shy of responsibility and have gained some experience within the local newspaper industry.

Serving our weekend titles, Kent on Sunday and Kent on Saturday, you will also work for our midweek e-editions and our websites. The role will require hard work, bags of energy, enthusiasm, and a real love of local newspapers and serving our loyal readers.

### Send a CV and covering letter to:

Chris Britcher, Editor (News)

ARCHANT KOS MEDIA,

Apple Barn, Hythe Road,

Smeeth, Ashford, Kent TN25 6SS

Or email: chris.britcher@kosmedia.co.uk

**ARCHANT**} KOS MEDIA



# Public Sector

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**KOSMEDIA**

Telephone: 01303 817040

Fax: 01303 817004

Email: [appointments@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:appointments@kosmedia.co.uk)

Online: [www.jobsforkent.co.uk](http://www.jobsforkent.co.uk)



## THE NEW SCHOOL AT WEST HEATH SEVENOAKS

"Rebuilding lives through education"

Principal & Chief Executive: Mrs Christina Wells (BA Hons.)

The New School at West Heath works towards helping students develop life skills and enjoy social activities. As a team we share a real desire to set a new, even higher standard of care in education and you can help us achieve this goal. The School has approval status from the DfES and has an excellent rapport with both parents and the Local Authorities.

We are looking to appoint an enthusiastic, flexible and innovative

## ART TEACHER

Required from September 2011

The successful candidate will:

- excellent specialist subject knowledge and skills to teach effectively up to GCSE
- develop an innovative and creative learning environment
  - have the ability work effectively within a team
  - teach across ability range in KS3 & KS4
- the commitment to pursue opportunities for CPD

We offer Teachers rate of pay and SEN allowance

Contact Lynne McGrath for an application form and job description.

Email: [personnel@westheathschool.com](mailto:personnel@westheathschool.com) Tel: 01732 460 553

Closing date for applications 8 April 2011

The successful applicants will be subject to a CRB check and Vetting & Barring.

For further details about our school please visit our website [www.westheathschool.com](http://www.westheathschool.com)

*The New School at West Heath is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.*

## NORTHFLEET SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

We are seeking to appoint

### ASSESSMENT & PERFORMANCE DATA ANALYST

25 hours per week/term time only • Kent Scheme 5 Points 14-17 - £9,574 to £10,531 p.a.  
To work as part of a team to support the accurate recording, reporting and analysis of pupils attainment data.  
Educated to at least A Level standard with a strong analytical ability and good knowledge of Excel.

### ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Learning Support Assistant

31.25 hours per week (8.30 am to 3.15 pm)

**Kent Scheme Grade 5 - Points 14-17 - £11,968 to £13,164 p.a.**

To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of students with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs in relation to language. Excellent literacy skills in English and at least one other language which are supported by an enthusiastic and motivational approach to students. HLTA qualification desirable (or willingness to achieve HLTA).

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

31.25 hours per week (8.30 to 3.15 pm)

**Kent Scheme 4 or 5 dependant on qualifications & experience**

To support a variety of class teachers in ensuring access to the curriculum for a range of pupils with a particular focus on additional or special educational needs.

Full job description and application form available on our website at [www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](http://www.northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk). Application by fully completed application form with supporting letter to Mrs S Chisholm at Northfleet School for Girls, Hall Road, Northfleet, Kent DA11 8AQ - email: [personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk](mailto:personnel@northfleetgirls.kent.sch.uk). Tel: 01474 831020

The successful applicant will be subject to a full CRB check.

Closing date for applications: 4 April 2011



## Graduate Teacher Programme (GTP)

As a graduate have you considered a career in teaching via the GTP route?

Salary: £13,500 during training

St John's Catholic Comprehensive School, in collaboration with Canterbury Christchurch University, is inviting applicants to join our Graduate Teacher programme from September 2011 in English, Maths, ICT, RE

Further details, including an application form, are available from the school's website, [www.raave.com](http://www.raave.com) or from Muireann Casserly (EBT), [mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk](mailto:mcasserly@st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk)

The closing date for applications is Friday 25th March 2011



## Teachers Needed Primary, Secondary and SEN.

Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

Our dedicated and friendly Kent team can provide you with:

- ✓ Daily/weekly/termly supply opportunities
- ✓ Excellent rates of pay – paid weekly
- ✓ Free in-service training and CPD assessment
- ✓ Free use of resource centre
- ✓ An out-of-hours service

Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on: 0800 731 6871 or email

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**01303 817040**

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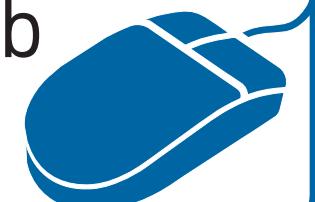
teachers from only £155 + VAT

**01622 623114**

[www.recruitmentsense.com](http://www.recruitmentsense.com)



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**JobsforKent.co.uk**





## Accountancy

### Accounts Administrator

**Canterbury**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@  
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

### Administration, Secretarial, PA

### Accounts Administrator

**Canterbury**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@  
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

### Administrator and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
Salary 14k  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@  
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

### Receptionist / Customer Service

**Canterbury**  
Salary 14k  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@  
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: Acc01

### Administrator and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
Salary TBC  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@  
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: ISC1

### Support Service Assistant

**The Folkestone School for Girls**  
Salary Kent Pay Scheme Band  
To apply/more information:  
Folkestone School For Girls  
sdunster@  
folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: KoS

### PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

**Ramsgate**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Piper Windows  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start  
To apply/more information:  
A & C Pumps Ltd  
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Agriculture, Forestry, Environment

### Gardener

**Tunbridge Wells**  
Salary £9.00 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
DMS  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Catering, Hospitality

### Part-time cook

**Meopham/Wrotham**  
Salary Negotiable

To apply/more information:  
Holywell Park Ltd  
debbiehollywell@aol.com  
Quoting Job Ref: KOS

### Customer Service, Call Centre

### Receptionist / Customer Service

**Canterbury**  
Salary 14k  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@  
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: Rec Aug10

### Telephone Sales Executive

**Ashford**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
ARCHANT } KOS MEDIA  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos 2

### Domestic

#### Care Domestic

**Westgate**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Gordon Lodge  
applications@kosmedia.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### IRONING SUPERVISOR

**Maidstone**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Molly Maid  
mollymaid\_tunwells@tesco.net  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### CLEANERS AND IRONERS

**Maidstone**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Molly Maid  
mollymaid\_tunwells@tesco.net  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Domestic Trades

#### Caretaker

**Rainham**  
Salary £15,039 - £16,440  
To apply/more information:  
Rainham School for Girls  
frand002@medway.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

### Engineering, Manufacturing, Utilities

#### TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

**Ashford**  
Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd  
sales@rimstyle.com  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Production Operatives

**Mid Kent**  
Salary £7.50/hour  
To apply/more information:  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: 1730

### Education, Teacher, School

#### TROWEL TRADES TECHNICIAN

**Broadstairs**  
Salary £7,990-£8,896  
To apply/more information:  
Thanet College  
personnel@thanet.ac.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: TTT001

#### TEACHER OF FRENCH

**Tonbridge**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Hugh Christie Technology College  
jruhchristie.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Part-Time Teacher of Music

**Aylesford School - Sports College**  
Salary Main Scale

To apply/more information:  
Aylesford School - Sports College  
jill.mckenna@  
aylesford.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref:

#### Teacher of English

**Aylesford**  
Salary Main Scale  
To apply/more information:  
Aylesford School - Sports College  
jill.mckenna@  
aylesford.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Teacher of Mathematics

**Aylesford**  
Salary  
To apply/more information:  
Aylesford School - Sports College  
jill.mckenna@  
aylesford.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### WELLNESS COACHES

**Swale, Medway**  
Salary £500-£1000+ per month  
To apply/more information:  
Arriba  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Caretaker

**Rainham**  
Salary £15,039 - £16,440  
To apply/more information:  
Rainham School for Girls  
frand002@medway.org.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Graduate Teacher Programme

**Gravesend**  
Salary £13,500 during training  
To apply/more information:  
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School  
office@  
st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Support Service Assistant

**The Folkestone School for Girls**  
Salary Kent Pay Scheme Band  
To apply/more information:  
Folkestone School For Girls  
sdunster@  
folkestonegirls.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### HR, Recruitment

#### In-house Recruitment Executive

**Mid Kent**  
Salary c£18,000 plus bonus  
To apply/more information:  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: 1728

#### PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

**Ramsgate**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Piper Windows  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

**Ashford**  
Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour

To apply/more information:  
Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd

sales@rimstyle.com

Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Graduate Teacher Programme

**Gravesend**  
Salary £13,500 during training  
To apply/more information:  
St John's Catholic Comprehensive School  
office@  
st-johns-gravesend.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Health & Beauty

**Aylesford**  
Salary Main Scale

To apply/more information:  
Aylesford School - Sports College  
monique@  
aylesford.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: PA Aug10

#### Receptionist / Customer Service

**Canterbury**  
Salary 14k  
To apply/more information:  
Canterbury Health Practice  
monique@  
canterburyhealthpractice.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Teacher of Mathematics

**Aylesford**  
Salary  
To apply/more information:  
Aylesford School - Sports College  
monique@  
aylesford.kent.sch.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### WELLNESS COACHES

**Swale, Medway**  
Salary £500-£1000+ per month  
To apply/more information:  
Arriba  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Health & Safety, Security, Defence

**Ashford**  
Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd

#### PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

**Ramsgate**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Piper Windows  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### HR, Recruitment

**Mid Kent**  
Salary c£18,000 plus bonus  
To apply/more information:  
Interpersonnel  
jfk@interpersonnel.ltd.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: 1728

#### PQQ SUBMISSIONS CO-ORDINATOR

**Ramsgate**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Piper Windows  
piper@piperwindows.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

**Ashford**  
Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd

sales@rimstyle.com

Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### WELLNESS COACHES

**Swale, Medway**  
Salary £500-£1000+ per month  
To apply/more information:  
Arriba  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Relief Catering Manager/Chef

**Rochester**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Rochester Cathedral  
deanspa@  
rochester cathedral.org  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Management, Senior Positions

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### TRAINEE OFFICE MANAGER

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Part-Time Office Manager

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Trainee Office Manager

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Administrative and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
Salary Main Scale

To apply/more information:  
A & C Pumps Ltd  
Pauline@thepumppeople.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Marketing, Advertising

**Canterbury**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
London Care PLC  
amirul.ahmed@  
londoncare.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Sales People

**Canterbury**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Your Local Business Marketing  
info@yourlocalbusinessmarketing.g  
com  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Part-time cook

**Meopham/Wrotham**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
London Care PLC  
amirul.ahmed@  
londoncare.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Community Support Workers

**Westgate**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
London Care PLC  
amirul.ahmed@  
londoncare.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Motor Trade, Driver

**TONBRIDGE, HILDENBOROUGH & SEVENOAKS**  
Salary £8.25 to £13.00 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
TerraBlu Ltd  
emma.foord@terrablu.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### TYRE FITTER / WAREHOUSE ASSISTANT

**Swale, Medway**  
Salary £500-£1000+ per month  
To apply/more information:  
Arriba  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Health & Safety, Security, Defence

**Ashford**  
Salary £8.50 - £9.50 per hour  
To apply/more information:  
Rimstyle Autodesign Ltd

sales@rimstyle.com

Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### WELLNESS COACHES

**Swale, Medway**  
Salary £500-£1000+ per month  
To apply/more information:  
Arriba  
applications@jobsforkent.co.uk  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Relief Catering Manager/Chef

**Rochester**  
Salary Negotiable  
To apply/more information:  
Rochester Cathedral  
deanspa@  
rochester cathedral.org  
Quoting Job Ref: kos

#### Management, Senior Positions

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Administrative and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
Salary Main Scale

#### Trainee Office Manager

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Administrative and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
Salary Main Scale

#### Trainee Office Manager

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Administrative and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
Salary Main Scale

#### Trainee Office Manager

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Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

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**Canterbury**  
Salary Main Scale

#### Trainee Office Manager

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Administrative and PA to Doctor

**Canterbury**  
Salary Main Scale

#### Trainee Office Manager

**Aylesham**  
Salary £8.00 - £9.50 ph to start

#### Administrative and PA to Doctor

**HIGHWAYS****HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford****BROMLEY GREEN ROAD, RUCKINGE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bromley Green Road, Ruckinge, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 5 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in rolling sections between the junctions with Capel Road and Hornash Lane.

The alternative route is via Capel Road and Hamstreet Road.

**VARIOUS ROADS, ASHFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Ashford, as part of a programme of highway repairs and resurfacing.

The Order takes effect on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 3 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below. The dates of closures are planned to be weekdays only. Some roads are closed twice, initially for 1 day for Surfacing and then 1 day for sweeping and lining.

**WYE ROAD, WYE / FOLLY TOWN, WYE / THE STREET, HASTINGLEIGH**

From 7 April 2011 to 18 April 2011

Alternative route via Scotton Street, High Street Churchfield Way, Bramble Lane, A28 Canterbury Road, Ashford Rd, White Hill, Shalmsford Street, The Downs, Chatham Downs Road, B2668 Faussett Hill, Stone Street, Thorne Lane, Dean Hill and Elvington Park

**CHURCH LANE / LONGROPE, SHADOXHURST**

from Woodchurch Road to Birchett Lane

From 14 April 2011 to 19 April 2011

Alternative route via Woodchurch Road, Hornash Lane, Hamstreet Road and Birchett Lane

**PLURENDEN ROAD, WOODCHURCH –**

between Shadoxhurst Road and Betherden Road

From 15 April 2011 to 21 April 2011

Alternative route via Shadoxhurst Road, Redbrook Street and Betherden Road

**MAYTHAM ROAD, ROLVENDEN for entire length**

From 19 April 2011 to 5 May 2011

Alternative route via A28 High Street, Tenterden Road, Rolvenden Hill, Rolvenden Road, Small Hythe Road and Wittersham Road

**GIGGERS GREEN ROAD, ALDINGTON**

Surfacing on 10 May 2011 (1 day) then sweeping & lining on 17 May 2011 (1 day)

Alternative route via B2067 Knoll Hill, B2067 Roman Road, B2067 Aldington Road, Lympne Hill, West Hythe Road and Lower Wall Road

**ASHFORD ROAD, BILSINGTON –**

from Bilsington Crossroads to Frith Road

Surfacing on 16 May 2011 (1 day) then sweeping & lining on 23 May 2011 (1 day)

Alternative route via Frith Road, Bank Road, Forge Hill, New Road Hill and B2067 Bilsington Road

**IDEN LANE, EGERTON –**

for entire length

From 20 June 2011 to 23 June 2011

There is no alternative route as it is a No Through Road. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so

The works are weather dependant and may be delayed by adverse conditions. Works that are missed will be deferred until later in the programme with the revised dates signposted on site.

**HIGHWAYS - District of Canterbury****MORTIMER STREET, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mortimer Street, Herne Bay, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

Mortimer Street will be closed between the junctions with North Street and East Street.

The alternative route is via North Street, High Street and East Street.

North Street will become One-way, southbound only, between the junctions with Charles Street and Mortimer Street.

The alternative route for northbound traffic is via High Street, East Street, Charles Street and North Street.

Chapel Street will be closed between the car park entrance and the junction with Mortimer Street, and can be accessed via Charles Street and North Street.

**THE STREET, KINGSTON (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Because of BT underground cabling works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on The Street, Kingston, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

It is planned the works will be carried out off peak between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm with the road re-opened outside these hours.

The road will be closed outside 52-56 The Street. There will be no access for through traffic between the junctions with Church Lane and Marley Lane / Westwood Road.

The alternative route is via Bonny Bush Hill, Black Robin Lane, Covet Lane, Turks Hill and Marley Lane

**HIGHWAYS - District of Dover****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (DOVER) (TRAFFIC REGULATION AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO. 12) ORDER 2010**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and 4(2), 32(1), 35(1), 46 and 46, 49, 53 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order introduces no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) at the junction of Upper Street with The Rise and on both sides of Upper Street fronting properties Rose Cottage, Robin Hill, Well Cottage, Myrtle Cottage, St Andrew's House and Trefoil.

The Order was sealed on 18 March 2011 and will come into force 21 March 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover and at Session House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER) (WEIGHT LIMIT RESTRICTION) (AMENDMENT NO.1) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under 1, 2(4) and part IV of Schedule 9 section 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order prohibits any person to cause any vehicle capable of exceeding 7.5 tonnes gross weight from using the following roads subject to exemptions for loading and unloading, emergency service vehicles and public service vehicles:-

Name of Road	Length of road affected
Old Dover Road	From the junction with the A20 Western Heights Roundabout to the junction with South Military Road
Centre Road	Entire length
North Military Road	Entire length
Durham Hill	Entire length

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover and Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to tdo.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on Monday 11 April 2011.

**HIGHWAYS - Borough of Dartford****CHURCH HILL, STONE - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011****THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Church Hill, Stone adjacent to level crossing.

The Order will become effective on 4th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 2 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Crossways Boulevard and Cotton Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate Network Rail engineering works.

**HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, MAIDSTONE, TONBRIDGE & MALLING, DARTFORD, GRAVESEND, SEVENOAKS) (50MPH SPEED RESTRICTION) - TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public using a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by vehicular traffic travelling at any speed greater than 50mph on the routes described in the Schedule.

The Order will become effective on Monday 4th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months.

**Schedule****Road Name: A206 Bob Dunn Way, Dartford**

**Extent:** From the A282 to the roundabout with the A206 Burnham Road  
**Dates:** Start: 4th April 2011  
End: 7th April 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 8th August 2011  
End: 11th August 2011

**Road Name: A289 Hasted Road, Gravesend (Wainscott Bypass)**

**Extent:** From M2 junction 1 to the Dillywood Lane Bridge  
**Dates:** Start: 8th April 2011  
End: 15th April 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 12th August 2011  
End: 19th August 2011

**Road Name: A2018 Shepherd Lane, Dartford**

**Extent:** From the roundabout of the A2 to the existing 40mph speed limit 100m before the roundabout with Rochester Way  
**Dates:** Start: 28th April 2011  
End: 28th April 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 31st August 2011  
End: 31st August 2011

**Road Name: A229 Bluebell Hill**

**Extent:** From the existing 50mph speed limit 30m Maidstone side of the Cobtree Manor Park entrance to the existing 50mph speed restriction 1/4 mile from the M2 junction 3  
**Dates:** Start: 3rd May 2011 End: 10th May 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 1st September 2011 End: 8th September 2011

**Road Name: A249 Detling Hill M2 to Bearsted Road, Maidstone**

**Extent:** From the roundabout with Bearsted Road (Newnham Court Farm) to existing 50mph speed limit 250m Detling side of Harpley Lane  
From existing 50mph speed limit 40m Detling side of Osbourne Drive  
**Dates:** Start: 11th May 2011 End: 18th May 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 9th September 2011 End: 16th September 2011

**Road Name: A20 Ashford Road, Maidstone**

**Extent:** From Old Mill Road to 50m Ashford side of the roundabout with the B2163 Penfold Hill  
**Dates:** Start: 19th May 2011 End: 19th May 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 19th September 2011 End: 19th September 2011

**Road Name: A20 Coldharbour Lane, Maidstone**

**Extent:** From the roundabout of the M20 junction 5 to the roundabout of the A20 London Road  
From the A20 London Road to the roundabout with St Laurence Road  
**Dates:** Start: 19th May 2011 End: 19th May 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 19th September 2011 End: 19th September 2011

**Road Name: A228 Snodland Bypass**

**Extent:** From outside Whittington Farm to the existing 40mph outside the Water Treatment works  
**Dates:** Start: 5th July 2011 End: 6th July 2011  
**Dates:** Start: 20th September 2011 End: 21st September 2011

**Road Name: A228 Hale Street Bypass**

**Extent:** From the roundabout with the B2015 to the roundabout with the B2160 Maidstone Road  
**Dates:** Start: 14th July 2011 End: 15th July 2011

**Dates:** Start: 29th September 2011 End: 30th September 2011

**Road Name: A25 Sevenoaks Road, Ightham**  
**Extent:** From junction of Rectory Lane to the junction of Pilar Box Lane  
**Dates:** Start: 19th July 2011 End: 19th July 2011

**Dates:** Start: 4th October 2011 End: 4th October 2011

**Road Name: A25 Ightham Bypass, Ightham**  
**Extent:** From the junction of Rectory Lane to the junction of Borough Green Road  
**Dates:** Start: 19th July 2011 End: 19th July 2011

**Dates:** Start: 4th October 2011 End: 4th October 2011

Kent Highway Services apologise for any inconvenience caused by these essential works, which are necessary for carriageway maintenance works. Should you require any further information about these works, the contact is Steve Bradley of Ringway Infrastructure Services Ltd on 08458 247 800.

**HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks****DEVON ROAD, SOUTH DARENT - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Devon Road, South Darent between Cedar Drive and Water Mill.

The Order will become effective on 4th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 4 weeks. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Devon Road, Cedar Drive, A225 Main Road, station Road Horton Kirby, Horton Road, Holmesdale Road and Devon Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of a new footway across a river culvert.

**RECTORY LANE, HEVER - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Rectory Lane, Hever from its junctions with Uckfield Lane and Pigdow Lane.

The Order will become effective on 4th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 6th April 2011 and last 6 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Uckfield Lane and Pigdow Lane.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate installation of replacement water main and lateral services.

**HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway****THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THE DISTRICT OF SHEPWAY) (RESTRICTIONS AND PROHIBITIONS OF WAITING, LOADING AND UNLOADING) (AMENDMENT NO. 3) ORDER 2010**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under sections 1, 2 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the Chief Officer of Police in accordance with Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of the eastern side of Coast Drive, Lydd on Sea and The Parade, Greatstone:

From a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 144 and 146 The Parade for a distance of 80 metres in a northerly direction.

From a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 176 and 178 The Parade for a distance of 50 metres in a northerly direction.

From a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 198 and 202 The Parade for a distance of 50 metres in a northerly direction.

From a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 268 and 270 Coast Drive for a distance of 50 metres in a northerly direction.

From a point opposite a point in line with the common boundary of Nos 160 and 161 Coast Drive for a distance of 20 metres in a northerly direction.

The Order was sealed on 18 March 2011 and will come into force 21 March 2011.

For further information, please contact  
Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800  
(local rate) or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)



Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a statement of the Council's reasons for making the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at the offices of Shepway District Council, Civic Centre, Castle Hill Avenue, Folkestone, between 9.00am and 5.00pm and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

#### HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

##### CLAXFIELD ROAD, TEYNHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

##### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of duct installation works for BT, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Claxfield Road, Teynham, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Claxfield Farm.

The alternative route is via A2 London Road, Lynsted Lane and Claxfield Road.

##### VARIOUS ROADS, FAVERSHAM (ONE-WAY TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

##### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order to impose a one-way traffic flow on Various Roads, Faversham, on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 14 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of phases and alternative routes are as shown below.

**WILLIAM STREET** will become one-way eastbound for its whole length, from 4 April 2011 for up to 14 weeks.

The alternative routes are via Park Road and Chapel Street or East Street.

**Phase 1 – ST MARY'S ROAD** will become One-way northbound only, between the junctions with Beaumont Terrace and East Street.

From 4 April 2011 for up to 6 weeks

The alternative route for southbound traffic is via East Street and St John's Road.

**Phase 2 – WILLIAM STREET**

From 16 May 2011 for up to 2 weeks

Works in William Street between St Mary's Road and St John's Road

**Phase 3 - ST JOHN'S ROAD** will become One-way northbound only, between the junctions with William Street and East Street.

From 30 May 2011 for up to 6 weeks

The alternative route for southbound traffic is via East Street, St Mary's Road and William Street.

The dates of the second and third phases are approximate guidelines, and may vary subject to weather and ground conditions. The exact dates will be notified to local residents and signposted on site. The Order is in force when the appropriate signs are in place.

##### VARIOUS ROADS, SWALE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

##### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Swale, as

part of a programme of Highway Micro-surfacing. The Order takes effect on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 3 months or until the works have been completed. The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below. These dates include some weekend working apart from Bank Holiday weekends.

##### STERLING ROAD / FERNLEIGH, TUNSTALL

From 4 April 2011 until 9 April 2011  
Access to be maintained via alternative junction

##### BRADLEY DRIVE / PARK DRIVE, SITTINGBOURNE

From 5 April 2011 until 8 April 2011  
Access to be maintained via alternative junction

##### MURSTON ROAD/CHURCH ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE

(through to 10 metres north of Tonge Road)  
From 6 April 2011 until 10 April 2011

Alternative route via A2 Canterbury Road, Hempstead Lane, Lower Road, Lomas Road and Tonge Road

There will be a suspension of the One-way Orders in respect of the following roads during this period, when the relevant signs are covered or removed, to allow access to residents

##### THOMAS ROAD between Murston Road and Cowper Road

##### GOODNESTONE ROAD

for its entire length  
**SHORTLANDS ROAD** between Murston Road and Cowper Road and between Harold Road and Goodnestone Road

##### COOMBE DRIVE, SITTINGBOURNE

From 7 April 2011 until 9 April 2011  
Access will be maintained via alternative junction

##### OAK LANE, MINSTER

From 26 May 2011 until 31 May 2011  
No alternative route as No Through Road - access will be maintained whenever it is safe to do so

##### RASPBERRY HILL LANE, IWADE

- between Old Ferry Road and Basser Hill  
From 27 May 2011 until 7 June 2011

Alternative route via Basser Hill, School Lane, The Street and Old Ferry Road

These works are weather dependant and may be delayed by adverse conditions. Works that are missed will be deferred until later in the programme with the revised dates signposted on site.

#### HIGHWAYS - District of Swanley

##### STATION APPROACH, SWANLEY - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

##### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Station Approach, Swanley from Goldsle Road for 60m.

The Order will become effective on 4th April 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to commence 8th April 2011 and last 3 days; 15th April 2011 and last 3 days; 6th May 2011 and last 2 days and 22nd July 2011 and last 2 days. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Goldsle Road, Azalea Drive and Station Approach. The purpose of the closure is to facilitate a mobile crane on the highway for Network Rail works.

#### HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

##### A299 CANTERBURY ROAD WEST, MANSTON (PROHIBITION OF OVERTAKING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

##### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public during construction of the new East Kent Access Road, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting overtaking on

the southernmost carriageway of the southern most carriageway of the new A299 Canterbury Road West, Manston, between the new Cliffsend Roundabout and the Minster Roundabout.

This Order takes effect on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 18 months or until the works have been completed, as and when the relevant signs are displayed on site.

##### THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, THANET) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (CONSOLIDATION) (AMENDMENT NO 34) ORDER 2010

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL propose to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3), 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49 and 53 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce no waiting at any time (double yellow lines) on the following lengths of road:-

**MILLMEAD ROAD** - on the southern side between points 10 metres north west and 10 metres south east of the junction with eastern arm of Western Road.

**MILLMEAD ROAD** - on the southern side between points 10 metres north west and 10 metres south east of the junction with Arlington Gardens.

**WESTERN ROAD** (eastern arm) - on both sides from the junction with Millmead Road for a distance of 10 metres in a south westerly direction.

**ARLINGTON GARDENS** - on both sides from the junction with Millmead Road for a distance of 10 metres in a south westerly direction.

This Order also proposes to remove the school keep clear markings in Millmead Road and a proposed new zebra crossing will be located near to this location.

Full details are contained in the draft Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of reasons for proposing to make the Order may be examined on Mondays to Fridays at Thanet District Council, Cecil Street, Margate and at Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to the Transport and Development Team Leader, Kent Highway Services, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to eastkent@kent.gov.uk by noon on 11 April 2011.

##### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984 (ZEBRA CROSSING – MILLMEAD ROAD, MARGATE)

Notice is hereby given that Kent County Council, as local traffic authority, and after consultation with the chief officer of police, propose to establish a crossing (Zebra) for pedestrians under Section 23 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all their enabling powers, as follows:

**MILLMEAD ROAD, MARGATE**  
25 metres south east of the junction with the eastern arm of Western Road

The existing "school keep clear" markings will be removed.

Dated 18 February 2011

Dave Barton  
Transport & Development Manager

##### VARIOUS ROADS, THANET (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

##### THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Various Roads, Thanet, as part of a programme of highway resurfacing.

The Order takes effect on or after 4 April 2011 for up to 3 months or until the works have been completed.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below. These dates include some weekend working.

##### APPROACH ROAD / NORTHDOWN PARK ROAD, MARGATE

From 4 April 2011 until 7 April 2011

Alternative routes

**EAST BOUND** – Dane Road, Upper Dane Road, Millmead Road and Laleham Road

**WEST BOUND** – Northumberland Avenue, Northdown Road and Wilderness Hill

##### LOWER NORTHDOWN AVENUE / WYNDHAM AVENUE, MARGATE

From 4 April 2011 until 7 April 2011

Alternative route via Northdown Park Road, Northumberland Avenue and Northdown Road

##### NORTHDOWN WAY, MARGATE

From 4 April 2011 until 9 April 2011

Alternative route via Northdown Park Road, Millmead Avenue, Millmead Road and Northdown Way

##### ST ANTHONY'S WAY, MARGATE

From 4 April 2011 until 9 April 2011

Alternative route via Millmead Road, Northdown Way and St Anthony's Way

##### TENTERDEN WAY, MARGATE

From 4 April 2011 until 9 April 2011

Alternative route via Millmead Road, Northdown Way and Wilkes Road

##### (WEST) DUMPTON LANE, RAMSGATE

From 4 April 2011 until 13 April 2011

Alternative route via Ramsgate Road, Hereson Road, Cecilia Road and Dumpton Lane

##### BUTTS ESTATE, MINSTER – DOMNEVA ROAD, ST MARY'S ROAD, THORNE ROAD, MOLINEUX ROAD & TAYLOR ROAD

From 11 April 2011 until 15 April 2011

There are no alternative routes for these roads. Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so

The works are weather dependant and may be delayed by adverse conditions. Works that are missed will be deferred until later in the programme with the revised dates signposted on site.

Katherine Kerswell  
Group Managing Director  
Invicta House  
County Hall  
Maidstone  
Kent  
ME14 1XQ

Dated 19th March 2011

For further information, please contact

Kent Highway Services, on 08458 247 800

(local rate) or visit [www.kent.gov.uk/highways](http://www.kent.gov.uk/highways)



#### MARRIAGE LICENCES

##### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

##### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

Applications have been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as venues for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-  
Name of Premises: **Wead of Kent, Maidstone Road, Headcorn**  
Applicant: **Paul Street**

Name of Premises: **Eastwell Park Boat House, Eastwell Park, Ashford**  
Applicant: **Martin Goodman**

The applications and plans of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.  
Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
1st Floor, Invicta House,  
Maidstone, ME14 1XX



##### KENT COUNTY COUNCIL THE MARRIAGE ACT 1949 AND CIVIL PARTNERSHIP ACT 2004

##### APPROVED PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGES & CIVIL PARTNERSHIPS

An application has been made to Kent County Council to grant a renewal of an approval for the following premises to act as a venue for the solemnisation of civil marriages and civil partnerships:-  
Name of Premises: **The Bell Hotel, The Quay, Sandwich**  
Applicant: **Mr Matthew Collins**

The application and plan of the premises may be inspected at the address below during normal office hours. Any person may give notice in writing of an objection to the renewal of the grant of approval, together with the reasons, within 21 days from the date of this newspaper. Objections should be sent to the address below.  
Giles Adey  
Head of Registration  
1st Floor, Invicta House,  
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## Stylish Corsa leading Vauxhall sales charge

First Drive

by  
**STEVE LOADER**

### Vauxhall Corsa

VAUXHALL really took the fight to arch rival Ford last month with a total of 9,812 new cars registered – nearly 2,300 more than the blue oval brand.

Fittingly, at a time when consumers are downsizing fast, the charge was led by its Corsa supermini, but it was joined by four other Vauxhalls in the UK sales top ten.

Vauxhall attributes the surge to desirable models – the classy Insignia family-size model is a former European Car of the Year winner, while the Astra family hatch and Meriva compact MPV have been finalists –

and to its enhanced Lifetime Warranty package delivering increased peace of mind to buyers.

But the key reason, for me, is the former; Vauxhall's dramatic shift to making cars of perceived higher quality and style – the latter inspired by Vauxhall and sister brand Opel's British design chief Mark Adams.

It is clear from the revised Corsa that the marque really has now got a handle on what is needed to catch the eye of buyers looking increasingly for cars that please both heart and mind.

The Corsa's old 'V' grille has been replaced by a chrome signature bar featuring the brand's new Griffin design, which also makes it easy to accommodate the Opel equivalent for the Continental market.

This adds to a front end altogether sleeker, more cohesive and upmarket, and there are five new colours in the mix; I wouldn't normally get excited here, but there are some interesting shades, not to mention names like Chilli Orange metallic, Guacamole and – the colour of the car I tested – Sunny Melon.

The style gurus have had fun with the cabin too, creating seat trims such as Steel



Blue and Tabasco Orange and lots of highlighting to meet the Corsa interior's need for extra fizz to attract younger buyers.

My test car had seats with a smart-looking tyre tread motif running through it, which triggered some pretty 'tyred' puns and wisecracks from we hacks, but such banter is usually a positive sign for feedback about the car under scrutiny.

It was certainly hard to fault my Sunny Melon yellow sporty spec SRi Ecoflex (air con version) three-door with its pokey yet frugal low emission 130PS (129bhp) 1.7CDTi: it really caught the eye with the

bright colour and generous standard equipment including 17-inch alloys, body kit and chrome exhaust. It also comes with steering wheel mounted audio controls, electric windows, cruise control, sports front seats and aluminium pedals.

But the real crowd pleaser was the sporty package delivering lots of low down urge, taut steering and revised suspension that gives better handling, while seeming to achieve a more relaxed ride than before.

However, while Corsa prices start at a modest £9,995, January's VAT rise has added to the impact of the fairly steep climb on list prices for better specified models – the test car starts at £17,390 and the new touch screen sat nav pack with USB link and Bluetooth, adds £750.

It's impressive and better value than packages on some rivals, but still takes this particular supermini to £18,140. To be fair, Vauxhall has kept price rises on the new range to a minimum despite the VAT hike, but you need to drive a hard bargain with the dealer in the current climate.



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2010 (59) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£19,995	2008 (08) BMW 3 SERIES 320I SE COUPE AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£18,995	2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995
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2010 (10) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£16,995	2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£8,995	2008 (08) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 9000 miles.....	£7,995
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2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 2000 miles.....	£12,995	2009 (09) FORD FUSION FUSION + 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 16000 miles.....	£7,495	2008 (08) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles.....	£5,995
2009 (09) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 3000 miles.....	£10,995	2006 (56) FORD FUSION ZETEC CLIMATE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£5,995	2004 (54) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA LIFE 16V MPV AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 78000 miles.....	£3,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£10,995	2007 (57) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, DIABLO RED, 13000 miles.....	£5,995	2008 (08) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (10) VAUXHALL CORSA EXCLUSIV 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1000 miles.....	£9,995	2009 (09) CITROEN C3 SX 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles.....	£5,995	2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 15000 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 6000 miles.....	£9,995	2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 750 miles.....	£9,495	2010 (10) PEUGEOT 207 S 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 7000 miles.....	£9,495
2009 (59) NISSAN NOTE VISIA MPV AUTO, GREY, 1800 miles.....	£9,995	2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£8,995	2008 (08) PEUGEOT 307 SW SE ESTATE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 8000 miles.....	£9,995
2010 (60) NISSAN MICRA TEKNA 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLADE SILVER, 6000 miles.....	£9,995	2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (57) PEUGEOT 207 SPORT 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£7,995
2010 (60) RENAULT MODUS GRAND DYNAMIQUE VVT 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles.....	£9,995	2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles.....	£6,995
2010 (60) FIAT PUNTO EVO DYNAMIC DUALOGIC 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles.....	£9,495	2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 5000 miles.....	£7,495	2007 (57) PEUGEOT 206 LOOK 3DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 2000 miles.....	£6,995
2010 (60) VAUXHALL ELITE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 7000 miles.....	£9,495	2005 (54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 4000 miles.....	£5,995	2007 (57) MITSUBISHI LANCER ELEGANCE ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 19000 miles.....	£6,995
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2009 (59) CHEVROLET MATIZ SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 1100 miles.....	£6,495	2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£7,995	2008 (08) HONDA CR-V i-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles.....	£10,495
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2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles.....	£23,995	2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 6000 miles.....	£9,995	2004 (54) HONDA CR-Z DSi 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles.....	£6,495
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2009 (58) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles.....	£9,995	2009 (09) VAUXHALL CORSA CLUB AC 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ULTRA BLUE, 4000 miles.....	£8,995	2008 (08) HONDA CR-V i-VTEC ES 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles.....	£10,995
2007 (57) PEUGEOT 307 S COUPE CABRIOLET COUPE AUTO, BLACK, 1500 miles.....	£9,995	2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 11000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (07) HONDA CR-Z DSi 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 3000 miles.....	£8,995
2006 (56) RENAULT MEGANE PRIVILEGE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 14000 miles.....	£8,995	2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£8,995	2008 (08) HONDA CR-Z DSi 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£8,995
2006 (06) RENAULT MEGANE DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,995	2007 (57) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 5000 miles.....	£7,495	2007 (07) HONDA CR-Z DSi 5DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 8000 miles.....	£8,995
<b>NEW FIESTA</b>		2005 (54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 3DR HATCH AUTO, RED, 4000 miles.....	£5,995	2004 (54) HONDA CR-Z DSi 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 18000 miles.....	£6,495
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2010 (60) FORD FIESTA TITANIUM 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 2000 miles.....	£11,995	2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 450 miles.....	£9,495	2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ CLK CLK200 KOMPRESSOR AVANTGARDE CONVERTIBLE AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles.....	£23,995
2009 (58) FORD FIESTA STYLE PLUS 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£8,995	2009 (59) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 500 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ C CLASS C180 AVANTGARDE SE SALOON AUTO, CUBANITE SILVER, 23000 miles.....	£13,995
2008 (08) FORD FIESTA STYLE CLIMATE 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 9000 miles.....	£6,995	2007 (57) SUZUKI SWIFT GLX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLUE, 21000 miles.....	£7,495	2010 (60) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI AVANTGARDE SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, MOUNTAIN GREY, 1610 miles.....	£13,995
2007 (57) FORD FIESTA GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£6,995	2005 (54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 1000 miles.....	£5,995	2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, STEPPED BROWN, 13000 miles.....	£12,995
<b>FOCUS HATCH &amp; SALOON</b>		2005 (54) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 1000 miles.....	£5,995	2008 (08) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, LWB, 6000 miles.....	£9,995
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2008 (08) FORD FOCUS ZETEC 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 4000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (07) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 14000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (57) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A150 CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£9,995
2008 (08) FORD FOCUS STYLE 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 14000 miles.....	£6,995	2007 (07) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, ORANGE, 7000 miles.....	£5,995	2006 (02) MERCEDES-BENZ SLK CLK230 COMPRESSOR CONVERTIBLE AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 38000 miles.....	£7,995
2005 (55) FORD FOCUS GHIA 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles.....	£6,495	2008 (08) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 20000 miles.....	£8,995	<b>VOLKSWAGEN</b>	
<b>FOCUS ESTATES</b>		2005 (55) VAUXHALL CORSA DESIGN 16V 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 27000 miles.....	£6,495	2008 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 17000 miles.....	£11,995
2007 (57) FORD FOCUS STYLÉ ESTATE AUTO, GREY, 12000 miles.....	£6,495	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£9,995	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 16000 miles.....	£9,995
<b>RENAULT SCENIC</b>		2008 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF S 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£9,995	2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 12000 miles.....	£7,995
2009 (59) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE OCI FAP TURBO MPV AUTO, BLUE, 6000 miles.....	£16,995	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S (80BHP) 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 18000 miles.....	£7,995	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN POLO S 3DR HATCH AUTO, REFLEX SILVER, 16000 miles.....	£7,495
2007 (07) RENAULT GRAND SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 8000 miles.....	£8,995	<b>DIESEL AUTOMATICS</b>		2008 (08) VOLKSWAGEN POLO 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£7,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 15000 miles.....	£8,995	2008 (08) NISSAN MICRA 25 CONVERTIBLE CC CONVERTIBLE AUTO, EMOTION RED, 11000 miles.....	£9,995	2008 (08) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH AUTO 4x4, CAFFE LATTE, 11000 miles.....	£11,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, RED, 13000 miles.....	£7,995	2010 (10) NISSAN MICRA 130 5STR MPV AUTO, GREEN, 8000 miles.....	£9,995	2010 (60) VAUXHALL ZAFIRA ELITE CDTI TD HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£16,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 10000 miles.....	£7,995	2009 (09) NISSAN MICRA 150 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 8000 miles.....	£9,995	2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI TEKNA 4WD 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles.....	£13,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC PRIVILEGE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 26000 miles.....	£7,995	2008 (08) NISSAN MICRA 150 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 9000 miles.....	£9,995	2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles.....	£12,995
2007 (07) RENAULT SCENIC DYNAMIQUE VVT 111 5STR MPV AUTO, BLUE, 19000 miles.....	£6,495	2005 (05) NISSAN MICRA 150 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 25000 miles.....	£9,995	2009 (09) NISSAN QASHQAI EXCLUSIV CDTI TD MPV AUTO, ICE GREEN, 7000 miles.....	£12,995
<b>RENAULT</b>		2005 (05) NISSAN MICRA 150 5STR MPV AUTO, GREY, 30000 miles.....	£9,995	2006 (06) JAGUAR X-TYPE S 5D SALOON, RED, 72000 miles.....	£7,995
2010 (10) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, BLUE, 1800 miles.....	£9,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF PLUS LUNA TD 5DR HATCH, BLUE, 20000 miles.....	£7,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles.....	£6,995
2005 (07) RENAULT KANGOO EXPRESSION 16V MPV AUTO, GOLD, 12000 miles.....	£9,995	2007 (07) VAUXHALL MERIVA SE CDTI TD MPV AUTO, GREY, 5000 miles.....	£6,995	2008 (08) HYUNDAI MATRIX CLASSIC MPV, BLACK, 8000 miles.....	£5,995
2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 250 miles.....	£9,995	2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 4000 miles.....	£13,995	2005 (05) TOYOTA COROLLA TS 3 COLOUR EDITION VVT-1 5DR HATCH, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 33000 miles.....	£5,995
2010 (10) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 1500 miles.....	£8,995	2009 (09) MERCEDES-BENZ A CLASS A160 CDI CLASSIC SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, STEPPE BROWN, 13000 miles.....	£12,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 35000 miles.....	£5,995
2006 (06) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREEN, 15000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 35000 miles.....	£5,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, GOLD, 36000 miles.....	£5,995
2006 (06) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 14000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 35000 miles.....	£5,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 35000 miles.....	£5,995
2006 (06) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 20000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 35000 miles.....	£5,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 35000 miles.....	£5,995
2006 (06) RENAULT GRAND MODUS DYNAMIQUE VVT 136 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 25000 miles.....	£8,995	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, GREY, 35000 miles.....	£5,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF MATCH FS1 115 5DR HATCH AUTO, WHITE, 35000 miles.....	£5,995
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2009 (09) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 3000 miles.....	£6,495	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles.....	£6,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 30000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, ALUMINIUM SILVER, 999 miles.....	£6,495	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles.....	£6,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 30000 miles.....	£7,995
2009 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 9000 miles.....	£6,495	2007 (07) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 24000 miles.....	£6,995	2006 (06) VOLKSWAGEN GOLF SE 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 30000 miles.....	£7,995
2008 (08) CHEVROLET LACETTI SX 5DR HATCH AUTO, BLACK, 999 miles.....	£6,495	20			

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Motability



**VAUXHALL**

Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO2 emissions (g/km). Vauxhall range. Urban: 16.5 (17.1)-67.3 (4.2), Extra-urban: 35.8 (7.9)-91.1 (3.1), Combined: 25.0 (11.3)-80.7 (3.5). CO2 emissions: 265-94g/km.

Offers are available for registrations between 04.01.11 - 31.03.11 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded; cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers may not apply to all retailer stocks. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper, 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. For more information contact your local Vauxhall Retailer or visit [www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty](http://www.vauxhall.co.uk/warranty).

# FIRST GEAR

Compiled by Steve Loader

## Baby Volvo even more attractive

VOLVO has revamped its highly under-rated hatchback coupe, the C30, which now starts from just £14,995 and is offered with tempting customisation packages.

The add-ons range from styling kits and tow bars to portable navigation systems and engine performance upgrades via Volvo's partnership with Polestar.

Petrol choice ranges from 2.0-litre petrol to the hot hatch T5, while there is also a range of smooth diesel options.

The C30 also comes with varying levels of specification from the ES to the SE Lux, including the sports



derived R-Design trim and London Congestion Charge/road tax-beating DRIVe version producing just 99g/km of CO<sub>2</sub>.

.....



## Audi takes on its own flagship with the brand new A6

AUDI has majored on reducing weight, fuel consumption and emissions for its stunning all-new A6 saloon.

Composite aluminium and steel construction was used to make it around 15 per cent lighter than an all-steel equivalent, so it delivers a company car 'user-chooser' friendly 129g/km CO<sub>2</sub> in emissions and an average around 57mpg.

One petrol and four diesel engines are currently offered, teamed with manual or a choice of two auto transmissions. Audi's trademark Quattro permanent all-wheel drive is also available.

Audi claims the newcomer offers a similar cabin ambience and look as its flagship A8 limousine model, though start prices are considerably less, from £30,145.



## The beast is back

WE MAY be witnessing the last hurrah of muscle cars in the UK, but Vauxhall's Aussie-derived VXR8 halo car is back on sale.

Priced from £45,000, it is around ten grand dearer than last time due to the fall-out between a strong Australian dollar and faltering UK pound, but 'The Thunder from Down Under' still represents remarkable value for money, is better specified than before, and drives considerably better.

But the fact that Vauxhall expects to sell just 30 of these rear-wheel drive 400+bhp monsters a year also underlines the model's wider value to the marque and its sporting VXR sub-brand as a publicity machine.

It looks the part, sitting on brutal-looking 20-inch alloys and featuring a new, 'Shockwave' grille, LED daytime running lights and tail lamps, sleek new wing-vents, 'Superflow' rear spoiler, and twin exhaust tips that mimic the shape of the front grille.

The throbbing 6.2-litre V8 will punch the VXR8 to 60mph in 4.9 seconds and quickly onto a governed 155mph maximum and far more securely than before thanks to a revised chassis featuring Magnetic Ride Control (standard on GTS only).

The cabin is also far better, with capacious full leather seating and surprising practicality thrown in with the four-door body.



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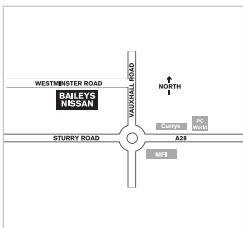
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\*Refers to EXTRA URBAN fuel consumption figures – based on Micra 1.2 with manual transmission on a full tank of petrol. <sup>t</sup>Model shown is Micra 1.2 Tekna manual priced at £12,350 on the road plus optional metallic paint at £400 inc VAT. Information correct at time of going to press. Models subject to availability. Nissan Motor (GB) Ltd, The Rivers Office Park, Denham Way, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire WD3 9YS.

Fuel consumption figures for Nissan MICRA Range: CO<sub>2</sub> 125-115g/km – URBAN 42.2-46.3mpg/6.7-6.1L/100km – EXTRA URBAN 61.4-65.7mpg/4.6-4.3L/100km – COMBINED 52.3-56.5mpg/5.4-5.0L/100km.

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(between Canterbury and Herne Bay)[www.kentcarfinance.co.uk](http://www.kentcarfinance.co.uk)**MAIN DEALER STANDARDS AT USED CAR PRICES!!!****2007/07 PLATE  
KIA PICANTO  
1.1 LS  
5 DOOR**

in midnight black with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows central locking power steering c/d in-car entertainment system drivers multiple airbag protection system this car is one owner from new with a full main dealer service history offers great fuel economy and good value for money at only £3,995

**2003/03 PLATE  
MERCEDES A160  
ELEGANCE AUTO  
5 DOOR**

in Royal metallic blue with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning Electric windows multiple airbag protection system c/d in car entertainment system electric adjustable door mirrors remote control central locking alloy wheels cruise control height adjustable front seats front center armrest this car is offered with a full main dealer service history would make a good family car and represents great value for money at only £3,995

**2003/03 PLATE  
ROVER 25 IL  
STEPSPEED AUTO  
5 DOOR**

in chili red with contrasting Grey cloth interior Electric windows-power steering remote control central locking electric adjustable door mirrors multiple airbag protection system electric tilt and slide sunroof drivers seat height adjustment c/d in car entertainment system this car would make a great family car is offered with a full service history and good value for money at only £2,995

**2003/03 PLATE  
TOYOTA CELICA T  
SPORT VVTI  
COUPE  
3 DOOR**

in moonlight blue metallic with contrasting dark grey leather interior air conditioning electric windows remote control central locking c/d in car entertainment system alloy wheels multiple airbag protection system front fog lights rear boot spoiler this car is offered with only 67,000 miles from new full service history and is great value for money at only £5,495

**2005/05 PLATE  
PEUGEOT 407  
DIESEL 2.0HDI S  
4 DOOR**

in ice blue metallic with contrasting dark grey interior 6 speed gearbox electric windows air conditioning remote control central locking c/d in car entertainment system front fog lights multiple airbag protection system electric adjustable door mirrors drivers seat height adjustment this car offers great fuel economy and good value for money

£4,495

**JUST ARRIVED****2004/04 PLATE  
FORD FIESTA  
1.4 FLAME  
3 DOOR**

in stardust metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows multiple airbag protection system alloy wheels remote control central locking heated front screen drivers seat height adjustment front fog lights electric adjustable door mirrors c/d in car entertainment system this car is offered with only 32,000 miles from new with a full main dealer service history great fuel economy and good value for money at only £3,995

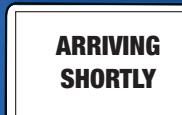
**JUST ARRIVED****2000/W PLATE  
VOLKSWAGEN  
POLO 1.4 SE  
3 DOOR**

in metallic red with contrasting red and grey cloth interior electric window power steering electric adjustable door mirrors central locking alloy wheels front fog lights height adjustable front seats electric sunroof c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system this car would make a great first car or family runabout

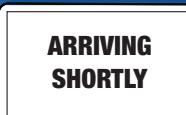
£2,695

**JUST ARRIVED****2002/52 PLATE  
TOYOTA LAND-CRUISER AMAZON 4.2TD AUTO 5 DOOR**

in moondust metallic silver with contrasting grey leather interior air conditioning electric windows alloy wheels electric adjustable door mirrors 7 seats electric adjustable seats heated front seats remote control central locking electric sunroof this car has many extras to list with only 76,000 miles from new and lots of space would make a great family car £14,995

**ARRIVING SHORTLY****2007/07 PLATE  
FORD FOCUS 1.6  
ZETEC CLIMATE  
5 DOOR**

in ocean blue metallic with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning alloy wheels remote control central locking electric windows front fog lights drivers seat height adjustment c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system this car is one owner from new with a full service history and offers great value for money at only £6,495

**ARRIVING SHORTLY****2004/54 PLATE  
SSANGYONG  
REXTON RX270 S  
5 DOOR DIESEL**

in midnight black metallic with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows alloy wheels electric adjustable door mirrors c/d in car entertainment system remote control central locking drivers seat height adjustment multiple airbag protection system this car is one owner from new with only 29,000 miles and offers great value for money at only £5,995

**ARRIVING SHORTLY****2004/04 PLATE  
FORD FOCUS  
1.6 GHIA  
5 DOOR**

in metallic moondust blue with contrasting dark grey cloth interior air conditioning electric windows alloy wheels electric adjustable door mirrors c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system drivers seat height adjustment remote control central locking multifunction steering wheel front armrest front fog lights this car is offered with a full service history 44,000 miles from new and is great value for money at only £3,995

**ARRIVING SHORTLY****2003/03 PLATE  
TOYOTA COROLLA  
1.4 VVTI  
5 DOOR**

in charcoal metallic grey with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows alloy wheels c/d in car entertainment system remote control central locking electric adjustable door mirrors multiple airbag protection system onboard trip computer drivers seat height adjustment this car is offered with a full service history, two owners from new and would make a great family car, sensibly priced at only £3,995

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Term	36 months

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CT 200h prices start from £23,485 OTR. Model shown CT 200h SE-I costing £23,995 including optional metallic paint at £510. Price correct at time of going to print and includes VAT, delivery, number plates, full tank of fuel, one year's road fund license and £55 first registration fee. †9.9% Representative APR over 3 years on Lexus Connect Contract Purchase available on all new retail CT 200h SE-I, when registered and financed through Lexus Financial Services Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5UZ at participating Lexus Centres, valid until 31 March 2011. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. Vehicle on sale from March 2011. Terms and conditions apply. Excess mileage charge applies over 30,000 at 9 pence per mile. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s only. Lexus Centres are independent of Lexus Financial Services. Subject to availability.

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†5 years 0% finance on Corsa, Astra, Meriva and Insignia models = maximum finance balance £10,000. 4 years 0% finance on Zafira models = maximum finance balance £15,000. Finance supplied by Alpha Financial Services, Europa House, Bartley Way, Hook, Hampshire, RG27 9UF. <sup>†</sup>Finance subject to status, over 18's only. A guarantee may be required, written quotations available on request. Prices shown are available on selected WJ King stock vehicles only whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer. Offers apply to selected vehicles purchased and registered between 1st March 2011 and 31st March 2011 subject to availability and are available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only) All other sales categories are excluded. UK-supplied vehicles only. Vauxhall Lifetime Warranty covers lifetime ownership of first registered keeper 100,000 mile limit. Terms and conditions apply. Please note, models portrayed are for illustration purposes only and may not represent actual model. A £99 inc. VAT admin fee (security checks and fuel) will be added to all vehicle purchases, this includes £20 worth of fuel. WJ King reserves the right to withdraw any offer at any time. Telephone calls may be recorded for training purposes. E&OE.

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07/57	A 180 CDI Classic SE 5dr Manual, Silver	£8,495	06/06	A 170 Classic SE 3dr Automatic, Silver	£7,990
10/10	A 160 CDI Classic SE Automatic, Grey	£12,490	09/59	E 350 CDI Sport Coupe Automatic, White	£35,693.83
06/06	C 230 Avantgarde SE Estate Automatic, Silver	£11,995	10/10	B 200 CDI Sport Automatic, Blue	£22,490
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Vehicles shown feature metallic paint at extra cost (Spark, Aveo at £375 and Cruze, Captiva at £410). Available at participating Dealers only. Not in conjunction with any other offer. Offer available on all retail registrations from 1st January 2011 to 5th April 2011. 5 year warranty up to 100,000 miles, expires whichever occurs first. This offer includes Chevrolet's standard Customer Care Commitment for a 2 year unlimited mileage manufacturer's warranty, and third year manufacturer's warranty with a 60,000 mile limitation. The warranty excludes wear and tear and serviceable items and the vehicle has to be serviced in accordance with the manufacturer's servicing schedule. \*The 5 year warranty previously only available when paying full retail price is now available on all vehicle sales. †Savings shown are against recommended retail price at time of publication. Calls may be recorded and monitored for training purposes.

Official Government Environment Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Aveo 1.4 LT 5dr: Urban - 35.8 (7.9), Extra-urban - 60.1 (4.7), Combined - 47.9 (5.9). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 140g/km. Captiva 2.0 VCDi LT 5-seat: Urban - 32.1 (8.8), Extra-urban - 45.6 (6.2), Combined - 39.2 (7.2). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 191g/km. Cruze 1.6 S 4dr: Urban - 31.4 (9.0), Extra-urban - 51.4 (5.5), Combined - 41.5 (6.8). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 159g/km. Spark 1.2 LT 5dr: Urban - 42.8 (6.6), Extra-urban - 67.3 (4.2), Combined - 55.4 (5.1). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 119g/km.

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DrivingReview

by  
**GARY WRIGHT**

Hyundai Santa FE

WHAT'S the most important part of your new car? Miles to the gallon, resale value, CD system...?

No, you're all wrong. If you intend to do drive any distance comfortable, supportive seating is number one.

After 30-odd years driving, I have lost count of the back trouble I've suffered due directly to rubbish seating in cars.

For me it's the top priority and more than half of drivers who suffer the same problem should remember it as they sign the cheque for their shiny new motor. (My top tip: the Volvo S60 has fantastic seats, it's a decent drive too but on the downside, it's a Volvo).

So, the only thing I was going to criticise about the Hyundai Santa Fe was the driver's seat: Electrically adjustable, leather heated and so on, so it should have been easy to get comfortable.

But it wasn't. I needed more lumbar support and cussed it a few of times until the eighth day (and almost 900 miles later) as I prepared to return the vehicle to Hyundai's friendly press folk, I discovered – conveniently placed on the side of the seat – two perfectly placed buttons... to alter lumbar support.

How I missed it I will never know. Perhaps it was the fact that it was loaned for a week-long holiday in Norfolk and I was on my way within hours of taking delivery.

But I can confirm that for the final few miles in my stewardship the seat was finally comfortable, perhaps it could have done with a fraction more side support when taking bends, but it would be churlish to complain.

# Press the right button and cruise in comfort



So, the Santa Fe is a fine 4x4, good-looking in the same way Merc off-roaders manage and – I'll whisper this – it's something of a bargain.

Ignore the green anti 4x4 brigade (most of whom are now buying the Nissan Qashqai which looks like an off roader but isn't, so I'm confused) and consider the Santa Fe a good looking estate car with stacks of space and rugged 4x4 when the going gets tough.

Hyundai provided a top-spec CRD Premium with seven leather-trimmed seats and a

smooth six-speed auto box, which is £26,245.

Its 194bhp 2.2 litre diesel actually feels much bigger and, even with auto, she'll tow 2,000 kg, which is plenty. The line-up starts at just £22,075. We are talking value here.

The green ECO light on the dashboard comes on when you are driving sensibly, 2,000rpm means about 70 in sixth, so mid 30mpg is easy.

It feels as familiar as a Ford Fiesta to drive, and despite the size, is easy to manoeuvre with an impressive steering lock and consequently

tight turning circle. The indicator and wiper stalks are on the 'wrong' side, like old Japanese cars as is the South Korean way, but you soon get used to it.

We had the seven-seat option, which was perfect for a week's holiday with three teenagers. On the journey to Norfolk they sat in the back, and the load compartment swallowed enough luggage for the trip and the self-leveling suspension kept the whole car in shape.

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days out around Norfolk's Broads and sandy coast, my 13-year-old lad sat in his own forward facing third row seat, with a plug for his iPod and a cubby hole for his drink (like I was going to let that happen), which was perfect.

One neat touch was the 35/65 split second-row seats which can recline slightly so those in the second row can get comfy so the two older teenagers appreciated the chance to sleep (any time of the day). The seats also flip forward to let youngsters in and out of the third row seats, though I preferred to let the lad in out of the rear tailgate, like a dog.

Norfolk is about lanes and is, I believe, the only county in Britain without a motorway, so I spent a lot of time on country roads between 30-50mph. It's not a sportscar and I wouldn't

drive it as such. She rolled a little more in corners than a saloon or estate but slow in acceleration meant swift progress with a minimum of passenger discomfort.

The Santa Fe has specific MP3 and iPod sockets to play through the decent stereo which forms part of a neat dash, bathed in blue light, which I like.

Will she off-road? Well yes I think so. A couple of passing places in narrow lanes had me welcoming the electrically folding door mirrors and I certainly had a couple of the wheels technically off-road.

I discovered you could turn off the ESP and engage the diff lock to get muddy, but I didn't need to. The biggest benefit though for my return to Kent was the sensibly profiled road tyres on handsome alloys. No pothole fears

with this baby (and yes, Kent's road surface was far worse than sleepy Norfolk). We get snow here, too, so the Santa Fe will make you your neighbours' best friend come January ... and February... and March.

We can all see that the likes of Kia and Hyundai have come on massively in the past 10 years and they make cracking motors that compete now hold their own against the best, and with their gold-plated warranties are now world best sellers. Enough said.

My tip would be chose according to your dealer. I asked around and the majority of owners love these vehicles and the only complaints seem to come from the dealer.

Many are brilliant, one or two may not be quite up there, so ask around and trust your instinct.

## Driving Portfolio

### HYUNDAI SANTA FE CRD 2.4 DIESEL PREMIUM

Driving appeal (out of five)	★★★
Image	★★★
Space	★★★★★
Value	★★★★★
Running costs	★★★
Reliability	★★★★
How green?	★★★
Road tax	£235/year
Best rival	Chevrolet Captiva

### The Verdict

- DON'T LIKE:** how the brand still needs to break through on style rather than value
- NOT SURE:** there's any point going for the cheap models – the real value lies in one with all the toys
- REALLY LIKE:** the worry-free package, space, value and that Hyundai five-year warranty

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## CAR OF THE WEEK

### 59 Plate. Skoda Octavia VRS 2.0 TDi

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## Used Cars

### 58 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Pearlescent with a Black Leather interior, 18,500 miles. £13,995

### 58 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD Elegance DSG 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Anthracite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 19,200 miles. £12,995

### 07 Plate. Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI PD vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Multicolour Velour - Leather interior, 35,250 miles. £10,995

### 52 Plate. Skoda Octavia 1.8 vRS 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Diamond Silver Metallic with a Multicolour Partial Leather/metallic Mesh Cloth interior, 91,350 miles. £3,995

### 09 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,700 miles. £8,995

### 08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.6 16V (105 BHP) 5-Dr Estate

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 27,250 miles. £8,795

### 08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 14,900 miles. £7,495

### 08 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 16V (85 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue Two Tone with a Black Cloth interior, 25,100 miles. £7,295

### 10 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Grey Cloth interior, 9,500 miles. £6,995

### 07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.2 HTP 12V (70 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Brilliant Silver Metallic, 22,500 miles. £6,995

### 07 Plate. Skoda Fabia 2 1.4 TDI PD (80 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Beige Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 16,400 miles. £6,795

### 58 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1 1.2 HTP 6V (60 BHP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Dynamic Blue with a Black Cloth interior, 13,200 miles. £6,495

### 56 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Graphite Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 22,500 miles. £4,995

### 53 Plate. Skoda Fabia 1.4 16V Elegance (100 HP) 5-Dr Hatchback

Finished in Black Magic Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 28,750 miles. £3,795

## Other Makes

### 56 Plate. Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI Sport (140 PS) 5-Dr

Finished in Steel Grey Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 80,100 miles. £8,995

### 04 Plate. Ford Galaxy 1.9 TDI Zetec (115 PS) 5-Dr MPV

Finished in Black Metallic with a Black Cloth interior, 10,510 miles. £5,795

### 08 Plate. Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-Dr Hatchback

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\*Correct at time of going to press.

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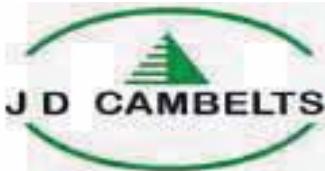


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\*7.9% APR representative is available on all new retail 1.6 SE Octavia sales (subject to vehicle availability). Indemnities may be required. Subject to status. Available for over 18's. Excludes the Channel Islands. Skoda Finance. Freepost Skoda Finance. Offers may be varied or withdrawn at any time and are subject to availability. Prices and specifications are accurate at time of print. Model shown varies from UK specification. Discount only applies to RRP of vehicle. Discount does not apply to optional specification. Official fuel consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Octavia range: Urban 27.2 (10.4) - 60.1 (4.7), Extra Urban 44.1 (6.4) - 83.1 (3.4), Combined 36.2 (7.8) - 74.3 (3.8). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the Octavia range 182 - 99g/km.



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**A**Buy the right wine and you can certainly double your money – and more! Composer Andrew Lloyd Webber has made millions by buying wine, storing it for years and then selling it at auction. But you cannot just walk into your local off-licence and expect to walk out with investment-grade wine that will show you a big, safe profit. There are specialist wine dealers who will recommend suitable wines and vintages, based on what you can afford and on whether you are happy to put your money into something that may look speculative today but could be a big hit five or 10 years from now. It is usually a good idea to store your wine in a bonded warehouse, which keeps it safe, in a controlled temperature, and with no duty to pay. Call Magnum Fine Wines (020 7629 5607). Magnum will suggest a portfolio of investment wines to match any sum from £2,500 up. Over the past 10 years, wines have risen in value by about 12pc a year, it says. Or contact The Wine Society. It is owned by its members and offers anyone help in buying a range of good wines. But be careful of any wine investment company that calls or sends you an unsolicited brochure through the post. There are lots of unscrupulous firms that charge over the odds and may never even deliver your wine before they cease trading. If you have already been approached in this way, check the name of the firm against the list of shady dealers (<http://investdrinks-blog.blogspot.com>) compiled by wine writer Jim Budd.

**Q**In 1986 I was in an accident at work, and my pension was increased as I had to retire early. One of your articles some years ago was about how someone in my position should not be taxed on the increase in my pension. I sent the taxman a copy of your article. I was given refunds back to 1991, and now every year I make a claim and get a cheque – so, this is a belated thank-you!

**A**The taxman has lots of little-known rules, and this is one of them. If an employee is injured at work, or catches a work-related illness, then any pension over and above the normal entitlement escapes tax. The snag is that the taxman will not know whether you are getting anything extra. He will assume you are on a normal pension and tax the lot.

**TONY HETHERINGTON**  
MONEY CLINIC

Meanwhile, most pensioners who are getting something extra because of an industrial accident or illness will assume that all their pension is taxable and will not know that some should be exempt.

**Q**I had an endowment policy with Norwich Union which matured in 2007. A couple of years ago you reported on a windfall payment due, and my policy fell within the time limits for a windfall. What has happened since then? Have I missed out?

**A**Not all policies qualified for the windfall. The “spare cash” was linked to policies issued by Commercial Union and General Accident, which – with Norwich Union – is now part of the Aviva insurance group. Payouts were made nearly two years ago. If you were not contacted, my guess is that your policy did not qualify. But it is not too late to check. Go to [www.lifeft.qs.aviva.co.uk/fundtransfer/announce/am-i-eligible.do](http://www.lifeft.qs.aviva.co.uk/fundtransfer/announce/am-i-eligible.do) and enter your policy number. You can still claim if your policy qualifies.

**Q**The Post Office is selling bonds that yield 4pc, which seems good in the current climate. Do you think rates will go higher if I wait?

**A**Interest rates could hardly go any lower, so the answer is yes, they will rise – and the rise will come this year. The bonds are a three-year investment, so keep some money back to take advantage of the expected upturn. And always have some rainy day cash on easy access. That said, you are right. The 4pc yield is good. Remember, these bonds may be advertised in the Post Office but you have to go online to get them, at [www.postoffice.co.uk/savings](http://www.postoffice.co.uk/savings).

**Q**Does the rule about card companies having to repay cardholders if a shop fails to deliver goods only apply in this country? I ordered something from the Channel Islands and paid £129 with plastic, but got nothing and the mail order firm's phone is dead.

**A**All that matters is that you and your bank are in this country. Contact your card issuer, quote Section 75 of the Consumer Credit Act, and claim a refund.

**If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**



**MOBILE SHAKE-UP:** Ofcom's decision to cap termination rates means good news for consumers – and for smaller networks.

## Ruling set to bring down cost of calls

Phone users should see a fall in charges after the industry regulator announced a cut in the cost of mobile termination rates – the wholesale charges that operators make to each other to connect calls to their networks.

Ofcom said it would place a cap on the rates charged by all four national mobile network operators – 3UK, O2, Everything Everywhere and Vodafone – from April 1, leading to an 80pc reduction in termination rates over the next four years.

The regulator said it would

reduce the cost to landline companies of passing calls to mobiles, with the competitive landline market expected to pass these savings on to consumers.

It is also likely to promote competition in the mobile market, with operators having more pricing flexibility.

“Hard-pressed customers will finally get a fairer deal on their landline-to-mobile and cross-network mobile calls,” said Mike Wilson, mobile manager at Moneysupermarket.com.

“For too long, consumers have

paid over the odds.”

Ernest Doku, of Uswitch.com, said: “It is disappointing that Ofcom has not taken on board the European Commission’s recommendation to reduce these rates in half the time.

“Nevertheless, this is a clear victory against the bully boys. While termination rates have served as a tidy revenue for the big networks, the minnows in the market such as Three have struggled to make headway.

“This news will really boost competition.”

# Families bear brunt of falling income

A growing number of families are particularly vulnerable to job losses and reduced income over the coming months, with many households facing a struggle to pay all their bills.

That’s the verdict of charity the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS), which has drawn on its analysis of 470,000 households which have debt problems.

The CCCS said that, at best, “the majority of these households are faced with stagnating or falling incomes and rising costs”.

It added: “At worst, they face job loss and unemployment. Everyone is trying to service relatively high levels of debts, and in many cases the situation is simply unsustainable.

“As a result, a substantial proportion of CCCS clients continue to be unable to meet the costs of everyday living. Almost half of clients ascribe their problems to job loss or reduced income from work.”

The charity said that stagnating or falling incomes at a time of increases in the costs of living had combined

By ADAM AIKEN  
MyMoney24 editor

with the impact of imminent benefit changes. Last year, almost half of all the people seen by the CCCS cited the loss of employment or income as a reason for their debts, while a third lacked the means to cover their basic living costs – let alone repay their debts.

Lord Stevenson, chairman of the CCCS, said: “The picture is undoubtedly bleak and it seems likely that many more families, including better-off ones, will be increasingly prone to over-indebtedness in the months ahead.

“It is also not a uniform picture across the country; public sector cuts in terms of jobs, spending and benefits will weigh disproportionately on certain groups of people.”

The alert from the CCCS follows a report from fellow charity Credit Action that warns of 45 significant changes to taxes and benefits coming into force on April 6.

Income tax thresholds, national insurance, tax credits and child benefit are among the things that will change at the start of the new tax year.

With changes at the start of 2011 – in particular, the rise in VAT – having already cost a typical family £480, Credit Action reckons the imminent changes will cost the average household a further £200 a year.

Credit Action associate director Joanna Parsley said: “The 45 major changes that we have identified will affect everyone – there really is no way to avoid them.

“Although not every change will have a detrimental impact, changes to tax and welfare benefits coupled with rising energy and food prices, and fears over potential interest rate rises and further job losses, mean that household budgets in 2011 will continue to be squeezed.”

“It is vital that with under a month to go until these changes take effect, everyone looks to revisit their finances and get them in order.”

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# BUSINESS WEEK



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## INSIDE THIS WEEK

FUEL prices have piled extra pressure on firms already facing difficulties. The latest price hike has prompted a renewal of the FSB's appeal to Government for a fuel duty stabiliser.

Other firms, including Kent haulage company R Swain and Sons, would rather see the next fuel duty increase scrapped altogether and warned that further Middle East troubles could send pump prices heading towards the £1.50 per litre mark.

### SIMON ROBINSON

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## KEY PARTNERS



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# We need Budget to oil the engine of growth

**CHANCELLOR** George Osborne has promised his Budget will help foster further economic growth.

The Coalition Government frontbencher made his pledge at the Conservative Party's spring conference in Cardiff. He also spoke of the "hurting" families who have been hit by rising costs, particularly at the petrol pump. Osborne said the Budget – due to be delivered on Wednesday – will

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

help these families without risking the country's economic stability.

He said: "I know how hard the rises in world oil prices are hurting families in Britain. When it costs £1.30 for a litre of petrol, £80 to fill up a family car, I know people feel squeezed. And I

say to people, 'I hear you'."

"This April I'm freezing council tax, I'm cutting income tax for 23 million people, I'm increasing child tax credit payments to the low paid.

"But we've got another of Labour's pre-prepared rises in petrol tax also coming this April, one penny above inflation. I won't take risks with economic stability or wreck the public finances but I promise I am doing everything I can to find a way to help families."

## What does Kent expect from the Chancellor?

WITH the public becoming more nervous about NHS cutbacks, I would like to see measures to reduce the financial pressures on the health service.

Individuals who take out private medical insurance should be encouraged and rewarded for taking responsibility for their health and wellbeing, reducing the cost burden on the NHS. Advances in medical treatment come at a price, with more money needed to be pumped into the NHS for it to cope.

Government has an impossible task to maintain standards while reducing funding in real terms.

People should be given a tax break to help pay for private medical insurance, especially pensioners. They can find themselves losing cover previously provided by employers and cannot afford to pay their own medical insurance once they stop working.

Companies should be given tax incentives, as this would make them more productive while again helping reduce the burden on the NHS. If Government wants the NHS to be sustainable, bold decisions need to be made now.

*Richard Bamford, key account director, Citrus Healthcare Consulting, Hildenborough*

CREASEYS' top Budget wishes:

- Please, no tinkering with the tax system unless absolutely necessary – we already have over 12,000 pages of tax law.
- Leave the taxation of business alone in order to encourage investment and prevent businesses having to restructure to save or defer tax.
- Leave Capital Gains Tax alone or look to reduce the main 28 per cent rate. Retain the 10 per cent rate for sales of businesses in order to encourage entrepreneurs to invest.
- Encourage international investment, and no crackdown for the taxation of non-residents and non-doms.
- Recognise that family trusts can be a useful way of protecting family wealth and not only to be regarded as a tax dodge. Try to reduce the amount of tax trusts pay.
- Consult and liaise with the business community before making tax changes. And no changes or tinkering unless absolutely necessary. It would be good to have a Budget one year that makes no tax changes at all.

*Richard Holme, Partner, Creaseys, Tunbridge Wells*

GIVEN the Government's position of tackling the deficit while trying to make it appear we are all better off – and having ruled out tax cuts – it looks unwise to wish for too much.

As many as 500,000 will no longer pay income tax due to the starting rate being increased to £10,000 in 2011/12. Another 750,000 will fall into the higher rate bracket as it is reduced to £35,000.

It has been good to see an increase in the limits for ISAs – long overdue. It would be good to see more done to encourage people to save, both in the short term and beyond, with perhaps a reduction in Capital Gains Tax for those with assets held over

**BOX CLEVER:**  
**George Osborne**  
will deliver his  
Budget on  
Wednesday



periods of, say, more than five years, and more to encourage savings towards retirement. It's a shame those affected by long-term care funding issues will see their assets seized more quickly as the means test threshold has been held at £23,250. I would like to see a reduction in VAT levied on purchases – and don't get me started on the price of petrol.

*Kieron Robertson, estate planner and independent financial adviser, Valiant Financial Consultants, Tunbridge Wells*

OSBORNE must centre the Budget on entrepreneurship and business growth. Getting people back to work and safeguarding the liquidity of small businesses is the priority. Offering rewards and incentives to businesses to employ people by offering relief from employers' NI or rebates on previous years' corporation tax will take the risk out of new hires for small businesses and get consumers spending again.

As the state-controlled banks, which control a significant proportion of business banking, remain risk-averse, the incentives for families and friends to invest in small businesses need to be increased and ways found to make it easier and safer for them to do so.

The price of fuel is becoming an inhibitor to business growth. Steps need to be taken to bring fuel prices down or at least cap them. VAT on website developments should be removed and brought into line with the VAT status of printed brochures. Finally, the Bank of England needs to play its part and not increase interest rates until economic recovery is secure.

*Neil Edwards, MD, The Marketing Eye*

SINCE implementation of the 50 per cent personal tax rate, much wasted time was spent preparing for this leap upwards, which only affected a minor portion of the population.

More cost-effective methods of collecting taxes from a larger proportion of the population would have been better. My wish is for the 50 per cent tax to be abolished – it is discouraging entrepreneurship.

We need to kick-start the economy again and help businesses to recover. They need assistance with R&D to give them a chance to be innovative, create new income streams and boost the bottom line. Tax incentives could be implemented to aid such growth.

We have so many systems and procedures for tax collections/payments. A radical review and simplification of Capital Gains Tax, pensions and Inheritance Tax (IHT) is required. The latter also needs to be reviewed, with a significant rise in the minimum threshold and a more transparent/formalised method of calculation. The current system leads to abuse. IHT calculation should be regionalised against the value of main residence.

Capital Gains Tax. In order to retain increased profits for small companies, Corporation Tax for profits below £300,000 is due to reduce to 20 from 21 per cent. It is imperative this commitment by the previous Labour government is followed through.

We have the highest petrol taxes in Europe. With fuel expected to reach £8 per litre, this will have a catastrophic impact, including on the car industry, parking fees, taxes etc. Companies should be provided with tax incentives to go green. The cost of doing so is significant – and for no intrinsic benefit to the company, just the environment.

*Chris Winning, director, The Winning Partnership, Tunbridge Wells*

THE Chancellor has a difficult job to achieve a Budget that has a positive impact on both business and individuals, while continuing with measures already taken to reduce the UK's high level of debt.

Individuals' spending power is being eroded through inflationary pressures due to increasing food, commodity and oil prices. With the rising price of oil, Government is already benefiting from extra tax take and while the additional fuel duty levy was built in to calculations for reducing the debt, the impact on individuals and business is increasingly apparent. I would like to see any rise in fuel duty deferred or scrapped.

While businesses continue to benefit from low interest rates, these will change at some point. Businesses must be prepared for this and plan for it. I would like to see the Chancellor concentrating on bringing in opportunities for businesses, to stimulate investment.

There are many ways that could be considered: reducing red tape, speeding up the planning process, simplifying the corporate tax regime and looking to reduce the 50p income tax rate.

*Nick Green, branch manager, Handelsbanken, Tunbridge Wells*



# Comment

**B**ANK of England bosses found themselves in the unenviable position of a 'lose/lose' situation last week when the interest rates issue reared its ugly head once again.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee voted in favour of keeping the record low 0.5 per cent rate in place, a move aimed at avoiding a double dip recession.

But this has left inflation – currently running wild at four per cent – unchecked.

I'll bet my hat that one of the financial experts on the MPC board took a moment away from pulling his hair out to utter the desperate yet eloquent summary: "We're damned if we do, damned if we don't."

Inflation now stands at double the Bank's target and desperately needs to be brought in line.

But an interest rate rise runs the risk of leading to a downturn in borrowing at a time when the country is slowly trying to claw its way out of recession.

The general consensus from the City is that the Bank was right to prioritise interest rates.

So the key question is when the Bank will act on inflation.

If it moves too quickly business confidence will suffer but the Bank cannot afford to drag its heels on inflation for too long. Key costs, such as fuel and energy prices, are sky high and rising.

This additional expenditure has seen businesses up their prices in order to maintain profit margins – a policy the out-of-pocket public will only wear for so long.

The first interest rate rise is expected to come in May.

With business growth across Kent and the rest of the South East picking up in Q1 and showing signs of further improvement, let us hope that the Bank's timing is spot on and that a potentially disastrous double dip is avoided.

Turn to page 50 for more on interest rates.

Business Editor SIMON ROBINSON  
Twitter: @KOSbusiness



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# Engineers' talent recognised

STRATEGY director Hugh Porter has been awarded Fellowship of the Institution of Civil Engineers.

Mr Porter, from Chatham, was recognised for his work at Woodrush Solutions Limited.

The fellowship is ICE's highest award and is only conferred on those who have made a significant contribution to civil engineering.

Respected internationally, the fellowship is a benchmark for those practising at the highest levels in the industry.

Fellow engineers David Amaku, project manager at Bovis Lend Lease from

Folkestone, and Malcolm Howard, a senior engineer with Transport for London from West Malling, both received membership of the ICE.

ICE South East England director John Laverty said: "Civil engineering is an important discipline sitting right at the heart of society. It is all about creating, improving and protecting the infrastructure that we all depend on in our day-to-day lives.

"Congratulations to Hugh, David and Malcolm on their success in demonstrating their high professional standards and expertise in civil engineering."



FELLOWSHIP: Hugh Porter

# Restaurant app takes the industry by storm

A HIGH-tech restaurant booking app has been snapped up by Apple's iPad business division as part of their sales drive in the States.

The VirtuaBook program gives diners a 3D layout of the restaurant and allows them to book the time and date of their reservation.

They can even choose the table they wish to sit at.

It was developed by Ashford-based digital media production company Rogue Interactive Ltd and is currently being trialled in London and the South East.

Despite VirtuaBook being at only the development stage, the app has created a big buzz in the gadget industry.

Apple Inc, behind the iPod, iPhone and iPad, contacted Rogue Interactive to ask permission to use the app as part of its sales drive for iPads to restaurants in California.

Requests have already come in for variations tailored to restaurants in Germany and Mexico.

VirtuaBook's Peter Blay said the App could take the hospitality trade by storm.

"The App creates an easy-to-use, paperless booking system and replaces the need for a front-of-house diary," he said. "Customers have complete flexibility to book their preferred date and time – even their favourite table.



PAPERLESS: Diners can use VirtuaBook to reserve a table, even choosing where they want to sit

also availability but also for potential customers who might want to choose a window seat, for example, or even an area with disabled access.

"You can manage all aspects of your restaurant, accounting for each day's opening and closing times, or managing sessions with the break-time feature.

"This is a really exciting development. We are already looking at an upgrade which will facilitate at-table ordering, with menu choices being sent directly through to the chefs in the kitchen."

For more information visit [www.virtua-book.com](http://www.virtua-book.com).

# Bank backs GPs' ambitions



FEELING GOOD: Dr Juneja with NatWest's healthcare manager Martin Garner

TWO doctors have taken on their own surgery after signing a £575,000 funding package with NatWest.

Dr Juneja and Dr Broom used the cash to buy the Marlowe Park Medical Practice in Strood.

The pair are now working on boosting the purpose-built surgery's patient numbers from the 3,200 they inherited to 4,000.

Dr Juneja said: "It is really exciting for us to finally be our own bosses. The premises in Strood became available when the previous owner was looking to sell, so inheriting his patients made the transition easier.

"We are confident so far that we have made the right decision and thank NatWest for their valued support throughout the process."

NatWest's healthcare manager Martin Garner, who oversaw the funding deal, added: "Both Dr Juneja and Dr Broom instilled me with confidence from the outset, given their medical experience and appetite to succeed, and it is rewarding to see them fulfilling their personal ambitions."

"I wish them both every success as they establish themselves in the local community."



**SHEPHERD Neame's turnover rose by 1.6 per cent year-on-year, new figures have shown. The Faversham brewery's half-year results up to December 25, 2010, showed turnover stood at £61.7 million.**

There were strong performances from Spitfire, Bishop's Finger and Asahi, sending like-for-like retail sales up 3.6 per cent. Operating profit remained static at £6.4m.

Sheps chairman Miles Templeman said: "This has been another good performance for the company. We have achieved record turnover and record total beer volume against a background of adverse weather and pressure on disposable income."

**A SERIES** of monthly business advice clinics will be held in east Kent throughout the year. The free sessions will be open to enterprises of all sizes that would like the opportunity to discuss any aspect of their business with commercial specialists. The consultations are being offered by the Dover and Thanet and East Kent Chambers of Commerce.

Chamber manager Sylvia Fagg said: "The clinics will be staffed by successful businessmen and women who understand what is needed to beat the competition."

The clinics take place on the first Wednesday of the month in Dover and the first Friday of the month in Broadstairs.

You can email mail@doverchamber.co.uk or manager@tekc.co.uk for more details.

**NATWEST'S MoneySense coach Sandra Latter went back to school to test the next generation of budding entrepreneurs.**

The finance expert divided Leeds and Broomfield Primary School youngsters into rival coffee shop firms and set them a series of challenges. The year five and six pupils developed business plans, drew up budgets and made preparations for opening shops, before going through the motions of running the business and making a profit.

Latter said: "It's been a trip down memory lane. This was my primary school, years ago. I've been impressed with the creativity and business acumen the pupils have shown."

**PERMANENT** staff placements increased at their sharpest rate for months, according to the latest employment figures. The Report on Jobs showed the number of temporary placements also rose to their highest level since May, 2007. These numbers were underpinned by robust growth in demand for staff.

The Recruitment and Employment Confederation's South East director, Clive Hutchings, said: "We are definitely beginning to see signs of the market for jobs being stronger in the next three months.

"This has been particularly noticeable in sectors such as IT, engineering, mechanical, electronics and software, where demand for skilled staff is gathering momentum."

**THE South East's private sector economy continued to gain momentum last month, with both output and employment rising to an eight-month high.**

Lloyds TSB's business activity index, which measures the combined output of the manufacturing and service sectors, revealed the region was recovering well from December's slowdown. Firms continued to add to their workforces last month and the rate of employment growth strengthened to its fastest since June. However, inflationary pressures continued to build, with input prices rising for a seventh consecutive month. The cost of raw materials and energy were key factors, forcing firms to raise output prices to keep profits intact.

# Early signs of hope in task force report

By **MARIJKE COX**

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SEVERAL research organisations have expressed an interest in filling Pfizer's shoes in Sandwich, Coalition Government ministers have been told.

The revelation was made by the Pfizer taskforce in its first 30-day report.

The paper, delivered to ministers on Tuesday, also made a number of key recommendations as to how Government can help to ease the impact of Pfizer's withdrawal from Kent – a move that will affect 2,400 on-site and 3,000-plus offsite workers.

Ministers heard how Pfizer chiefs were currently engaged in "detailed and commercial" talks with contract research organisations.

It is hoped these firms could create economic activity and job opportunities at the site, keeping Kent's skilled pharmaceutical workers in the county.

Five phases of action were listed, including proposals to preserve jobs at the vast research and development centre to creating a long-term delivery plan for wider opportunities in the area.

These include designating east Kent as one of Government's proposed enterprise zones, namely a Research, Innovation and Technology Zone (RITZ), covering Sandwich and the Manston corridor.



CLOSURE: Pfizer's European R&D base at Sandwich is attracting wider interest

Companies setting up there would benefit from tax breaks, lenient planning rules and National Insurance contribution holidays for

new start-ups. Zone status would aim to attract businesses and boost employment.

The report also calls for the creation of an East Kent Recovery and Growth Package, including the development of high-speed rail access and a reduction in journey times to Thanet and Dover.

Kent County Council leader and taskforce chairman Cllr Paul Carter said they would leave no stone unturned in stimulating business at the Pfizer site and in growing wider employment opportunities to help staff, contractors and the local economy.

"Our report focuses on the opportunities presented by the world-class skills and facilities built by Pfizer over the last 60 years," he said.

"Combined, they offer a unique asset on which to build a new model of hi-tech growth and employment which would be of importance not only to Kent, but to the country."

"Time is of the essence. The taskforce has brought together experts from business, finance, universities, politics and local government. We have sought to understand best practice from around the UK and the world in developing workable solutions which will deliver our vision of growth in this unique and historic area."

Pfizer's Sandwich site head Ruth McKernan said the immediate priority was to support staff through the transition with training and outplacement events.

She added that discussions with third parties who could help provide jobs to meet the skills and expertise of staff were continuing.

## Belfast will replace Manchester flights



FLIGHTS from Manston to Manchester will be suspended from next month.

Route operator Flybe said the service was being axed due to low passenger numbers – with the flight "economically and environmentally hard to justify".

The Edinburgh service will continue and a new route to Belfast will begin in May. The summer service will run three times a week.

Flights are available for booking now, with fares from £29.99 one way, including taxes and charges.

Flybe chief commercial officer Mike Rutter said: "We're delighted to be adding this new service between Belfast and Manston, providing passengers with a quick and direct route between South East England and Northern Ireland. While the service to

Manchester has unfortunately proved unsustainable, we've been delighted with the support shown by travellers to and from the region on the Manston-Edinburgh route and remain committed to developing our route network from Manston."

Manston airport chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "We are pleased Flybe has reinforced its commitment to Manston with the announcement of a Belfast service."

"Initially this will be three times a week, but will hopefully increase as demand grows and aircraft become available."

"Sadly, despite the best efforts of both the Manston airport team and Flybe, the Manchester route has not proved sustainable. However, we are confident that Belfast will attract more passengers."



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# Hotel empire expands

kosmedia BUSINESS WEEK

## THE BIG INTERVIEW

**A**ONCE-derelict, rundown Dover hotel is set to re-open next week after an exhaustive six-month, multi-million-pound makeover.

The former Churchill Hotel, which arcs gracefully along the seafront, was still very much in the 'building site' stage when I visited on Monday.

Dozens of landscape gardeners, interior decorators, plasterers, plumbers and electricians were hard at work upon my arrival, using the temporary collapsed cardboard box and carpet cuttings walkways placed throughout the hotel to get from one room to another.

I had assumed that with just 10 days to go until the Churchill is rechristened the Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa on Thursday, March 24, that the final light fittings would be being screwed into place.

There is an awful lot of work to be completed before the big day, so much so that if I were in charge I would be perilously close to panic stations at this point.

Importantly, the man who is in charge, K Rajamenon, is unfazed by the task ahead. He greets me in the lobby, at the heart of the hotel, before leading me on a brief tour.

The Sri Lankan sidesteps a team of interior designers busy hanging wallpaper to show me an empty, uncarpeted room where the hotel's coffee shop will soon reside.

When our touring party – made up of senior hotel staff and Rajamenon's brother, fellow hotel director K Rajaseelan – finally settle in a finished suite to carry out this interview, I ask how he's feeling about the big day.

"I'm very excited," he said. "We're working 24 hours to get the work done. I just hope the weather doesn't let us down."

That Rajamenon's main concern is the unpredictable British weather gives a good measure of the man. He is sure the hotel, the third taken on by his and Rajaseelan's Leaf Hotels, will be an unparalleled success.

His confidence is well merited. The group's two concerns have been turned around, while Rajamenon's eight care homes are also profitable.

All this has been achieved from the modesty of a part-time job working in a service station.

LEAF Hotels director K Rajamenon has certainly made the most of his business studies degree during the past three decades.

The Sri Lanka-born businessman stopped working part-time at a petrol station to manage three of them.

He then turned his hand to amassing a string of care homes across the county and has now set his sights on doing the same in the hotel industry.

Rajamenon's latest venture, the former Churchill Hotel, will reopen next week as the Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa. He spoke to SIMON ROBINSON about the grand launch event and his plans for the future.



K Rajamenon

ed to the hotel, despite it being in a state of disrepair.

"As soon as we heard this hotel was closing we picked up the phone and put in our bid. We wanted it because of its prime location – 14 million passengers pass through this port each

### MY TOP TIPS

- Avoid hierarchies. Keep reporting lines simple and always ensure that you are seen as an approachable leader of your company.

- Be a hands-on boss. Get out from behind your desk and spend as much time as you can getting involved in the day-to-day operation of your business.

- Your staff are critical to your business success so get to know them, invest in training them and giving them the skills and support they need to do their jobs to the best of their abilities.

- Don't overstretch your business geographically. We are a Kent company and by focusing our energies on growing the business in one region it is easier to maintain control, move staff around if necessary and enjoy other benefits that would not be possible if our hotels were scattered across the UK.

**N**OT content with developing a care home empire, Rajamenon soon set his sights on the hotel industry.

He said: "We got the opportunity to buy a hotel in Dover and began trying to run it as an independent venture called Dover Court. It was difficult to run without having a brand behind it.

"So we found a partner in Ramada and spent £2 million refurbishing it and upgrading it from a three to a four-star hotel. It became successful and is now running at full capacity.

"Buoyed by that we went looking for more. Three years ago we bought what is now the Holiday Inn Express in Canterbury.

"It was managed badly and not efficient. We made that successful and are now looking at building more rooms."

Last year, Rajamenon and Rajaseelan began work on adding hotel number three to the chain.

The hotel will soon boast 81 bedrooms, three conference rooms, a restaurant and bar, coffee shop and ice cream parlour.

Rajamenon said he was instantly attract-

year. We only need one in 14 to stay here to run at full capacity. Even if they only pop in for a coffee it's good for the business.

"There is no risk involved here. The previous owners didn't invest in the property and that is the only reason they failed."

While Rajamenon was clearly impressed by the financial outlook for his latest acquisition,



DOVER BEACH: The hotel is opposite the revamped 'wave' esplanade on the seafront



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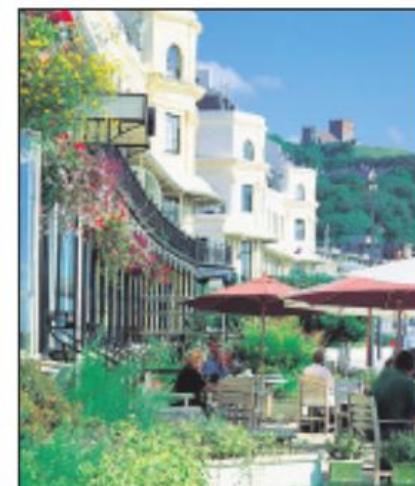
# into the comfort zone



SITTING PRETTY: Dining room at the refurbished hotel



VISION: K Rajamenon outside the Best Western Dover Marina Hotel and Spa



MAGNIFICENT: Hotel's seafront location

he was keen to point out its role in the future of Dover and Kent.

"Dover badly needs quality, value hotels. It's got a lot of attractions and history but no decent places for people to eat or stay."

"At the moment people come for the day and then go back to Ashford or London or wherever. We're looking at working with other organisations to enhance and create reasons for people to come to Dover and stay in Dover."

"We're going out and waving this flag, trying to get Dover speaking with one voice."

"It is important to remember that you need to have prime hotels to attract big tourism events to the county – that's why this development is so key as it will give the area the

chance to bring more events like the Open golf championship to Kent."

"Visit Kent has acknowledged the county needs to increase quality bed stock ahead of the 2012 Olympics and has welcomed our investment as going some way to achieve that."

"Tourism minister John Penrose will be coming to officially open the hotel."

"His presence is an indication of the importance Government attaches to tourism – not just in Dover but in Kent and beyond. We hope the minister will be able to talk about his views on tourism development in Dover and Kent."

Rajamenon's combined Leaf Hotels and First Choice care homes empire has a

turnover of £6m and employs 500 people. But this is just the beginning.

"We wanted to build two new hotels in Kent two years ago but had to shelve the plans," Rajamenon explained.

"One was set for the M20 while the other was going to be built in a major town. When market conditions get better we will go back to these plans. In two or three years' time we hope to roll all the family's care homes – 50 in total – under one umbrella, which will be the largest care home provider in Kent."

"That's also what we want with Leaf. We stand for quality and value and also believe in sustainable living, being green and investing in reducing our carbon footprint."

"We want to have the best hotels in the UK in terms of service."

Rajamenon is willing to get his hands dirty to achieve this dream.

"This is not a company where the directors sit in boardrooms and pass things off to others. I'm hands-on, part of the team and always on the shop floor. There's no hierarchy here and everyone works as a team."

"With this hotel I'm project manager, so I'm here six days a week."

"I am a firm believer in surrounding myself with high-quality staff who are all approachable. We want to be the best in the UK and I think we can all rely on one another to get there."

## Fertile ground for new investment

MTS Cleansing Services has invested £1.9 million on two revolutionary recycling machines.

The sewage disposal firm, based on the Kingsnorth works, near Hoo St Werburgh, has become the first company in the country to utilise the state-of-the-art composting units.

The 'HotRot' machines turn sewage grits and screening waste that would previously have gone to landfill into fertiliser in just 12 days.

They are expected to go online next month. MTS managing director Antony Crust said: "We have a fleet of 220 vehicles collecting sewage locally and across the South East from the main network run by the utilities as well as treatment farms.

"The waste we collect contains nitrogen and rather than dumping it we're going to be turning it into a valuable resource. If you compost it using the technology we're investing in, it turns into safe, odourless, eco-friendly fertiliser, just like the compost at DIY stores."

"Agricultural land will benefit, as will farmers, who love it, because it's greener and cheaper than chemical fertiliser. We already have a consortium with about 50,000 acres available to take anything we produce."

MTS has set up a sister company, Composting Facility Services (CFS), to run the composting side of its business and aims to buy a further four HotRot composting units in the next 12 months, enabling it to treat 27,000 tonnes of sewage a year. By



**COMPOST CORNER:** From left, Mark Moran (Santander Corporate Banking), Mike Norton and Antony Crust (both of MTS Cleansing Services), James Beaton (Vertex Law) and John Alder (Nash Harvey) inside one of the partially-constructed HotRot composters

the end of the decade CFS wants to have 50 in-vessel composter units across southern England.

MTS' plans have been backed by the Environment Agency, which has granted a permit to treat sewage waste in the new units.

Crust added: "I think the EA will be very interested in seeing the new composting plant in action. Although the technology has been tried and tested in New Zealand, it's new to the UK. The HotRot technology has some fantastic benefits, but you almost have to see it to believe it."

"We insisted on flying to New Zealand to witness the process for ourselves and were astonished that there was no unpleasant odour and that at the end of 12 days sewage

had been turned into a pasteurised product that you could handle with complete safety and that farmers are happy to apply to their fields."

"This is a very exciting development. We want to be financially successful but are also conscious of our environmental responsibilities. This represents a valuable new business opportunity, but one that reduces the miles our lorries travel and transforms a substance that used to be a problem into an eco-friendly substitute for chemical fertilisers."

MTS received funding from Santander Corporate Banking, financial advice from Maidstone-based accountants Nash Harvey, and legal advice from Kings Hill corporate specialists Vertex Law.

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# Have your say

Was the Bank right in keeping interest rates at 0.5 per cent?

**I SUSPECT** monetary policy remained at a crossroads, with the vote splitting four ways. But the era of ultra-loose monetary policy is drawing to a close. It remains to be seen whether the first hike comes in May, as markets expect, or August.

**Stephen Boyle**  
Head of RBS Group Economics

**YES,** it is exactly the right decision for the MPC to make and I would personally not expect to see an increase in rates before June. Best estimates tend to suggest rates will be at around 1 per cent to 1.25 per cent by the end of the year.

Although inflation is double the Bank target rate, it's important to realise that the increase is within Bank forecasts and is sitting roughly where they expected it. There are various one-off hikes that have hit the system over the past 12 months – most notably an increase in VAT from 15-17.5 per cent in January, 2010, then a second to 20 per cent in January this year. These will not be repeated, so comparing next year's rates with this year's will see inflation drop back.

As a country we also were a net importer of deflation, and with the pound weakening this impact has reduced significantly. Couple this with commodity price increases and inflation is perfectly understandable and justifiable, if somewhat concerning.

The Bank is fully aware of the impact any hike in rates will have on business confidence. Don't forget that it has the asset purchase scheme (quantitative easing) also in the system, as well as the option to reverse some of that to help quell inflation. What I do know is that the Bank is trying to get the message across to businesses that when rates do increase it will not represent the Bank putting the brake on – rather it easing off the throttle a little – 0.5 per cent is its foot full on the throttle of the economy, so even at one per cent this would still represent an incredibly low base rate.

**Phil Beavan**  
Portfolio director  
Innovation and Growth

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# Interest rate held at emergency level

## Rise likely in second quarter, says CBI expert

By **SIMON ROBINSON**

[simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk](mailto:simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk)

THE Bank of England has held the interest rate at 0.5 per cent, in spite of a recent rise in inflation.

The Bank's Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) maintained the record low rate – which has not been raised since March, 2009 – despite pressure to counter inflation, currently at four per cent.

Three MPC members voted for an interest rate rise in February in a bid to bring inflation back down to their target of two per cent.

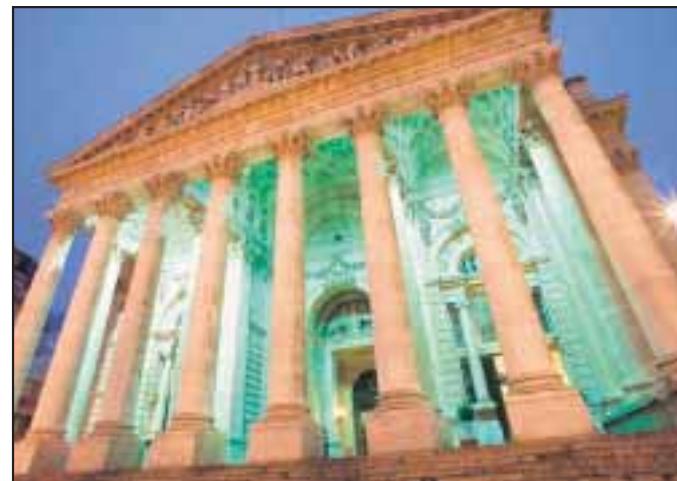
But rising interest rates increase the cost of borrowing, potentially tipping the UK economy back into recession.

CBI chief economic adviser Ian McCafferty said he thought interest rates would rise soon.

"MPC members continue to have widely divergent expectations about the outlook for inflation, so this decision comes as no surprise," he said.

"The short-term data continues to cloud the issue, but there are growing risks of inflation becoming more ingrained, as firms attempt to bolster their profit margins and employees seek higher wage rises in the face of sharply-increased costs of energy and commodities.

"The shifting pattern of MPC vot-



**CAUTION:** The Bank of England has kept interest low, despite inflation

ing suggests that these risks are an increasing concern, and we continue to believe that a move away from the emergency 0.5 per cent rate set during the financial crisis is likely in the second quarter.

"By acting early, the Bank can keep inflation expectations under control, preventing the need for more aggressive action later on."

The Institute of Directors' chief economist, Graeme Leach, added: "We believe the Bank of England was correct not to raise interest rates.

"The IoD has argued for some time that it would be dangerous to raise interest rates when broad money supply growth is so weak. To do so would risk a double-dip recession.

"This is a difficult time for the MPC, with inflation double the target rate and questions about the credibility of monetary policy.

"However, there are good reasons to believe that inflation will fall back sharply in 2012, and this consideration should drive interest rate policy, not the current rate of inflation."

## Agent wants your feedback on report



BANK of England agent Phil Eckersley will meet with Kent businessmen to discuss the implications of a key inflation report.

The South East official will hold a question and answer session at Kent Science Park (KSP) in Sittingbourne on Thursday, May 19 – 11 days after the Quarterly Inflation Report is published.

The interest rate has been held at an all-time record low of 0.5 per cent since March, 2009.

However, there is growing speculation that the Bank will be forced to raise the base rate in order to curtail inflation, which hit four per cent in February and is expected to continue to rise throughout the year.

Eckersley said he hoped the informal business breakfast would allow him to talk about what the Bank's interest rate decision means for the economy.

"The Bank of England recognises that there are a number of challenges facing businesses over the next couple of years as

**BREAKFAST:** Meet Bank of England agent Phil Eckersley

the economic recovery gains momentum," he said.

"It is the Bank's role to set Monetary Policy in order to lay the foundations of a successful and stable revival. Meeting local businesses is absolutely central to our decision-making process and I'm delighted to be visiting KSP to talk about May's report."

KSP site director James Speck added: "Having Phil Eckersley coming to Swale to talk to business owners about the Quarterly Inflation Report is a fantastic opportunity for local business to influence decision making and I would urge as many people as possible to attend this event."

The free Q and A session will run from 8.30am to 10am.

Email [jen.francis@ksp-uk.com](mailto:jen.francis@ksp-uk.com) to reserve a place.

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# Price hike fuels stabiliser calls

**Haulier believes crises in Middle East could push cost of diesel up still further**

By SIMON ROBINSON

simon.robinson@kosmedia.co.uk

HAULAGE company R Swain and Sons has said the recent surge in fuel prices has cost them nearly £700,000.

The Strood-based family firm's commercial director, Paul Burridge, said fuel expenditure had risen from £6.7 million to £7.4m.

He also warned that any further crises in the Middle East, particularly in countries that lead the way in terms of the world's largest fuel exporters, could see prices rise further still.

"The recent rise in fuel prices has affected us drastically," he said.

"We estimate that between 33 and 40 per cent of the cost of running a truck goes on fuel."

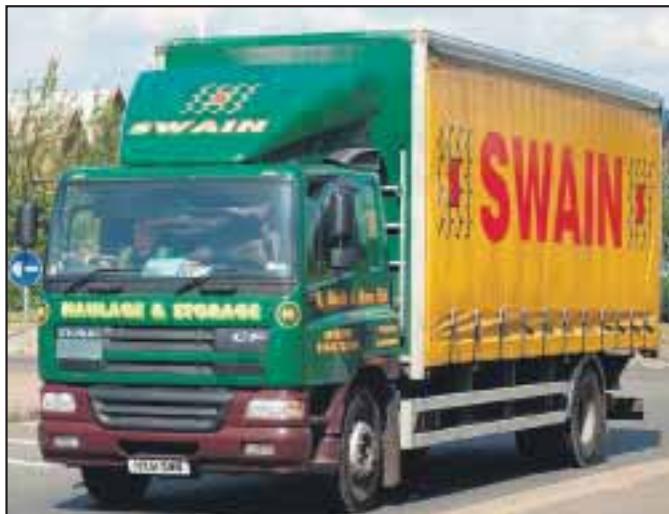
"So when fuel goes up by 15 per cent, immediately there are huge cost increases for us."

"Our forecasts showed we would be spending £6.7 million this year on fuel, but that was based on a price of £1.25 per litre."

"The price has now gone up by 10 per cent, which will take our expenditure to £7.4 million."

Last month the Federation of Small Businesses called on Government to introduce a fuel duty stabiliser.

In a report published on February 10, FSB bosses refuted Government claims that such a stabiliser was too



**CONCERNS:** Haulage company R Swain and Sons says the increase in fuel prices has cost it an extra £700,000 this year, and it may go up more

complicated and expensive to put in place.

Furthermore, the Federation went on to say that the rise in fuel duty and uncertainty over fuel prices would have a significant impact on small businesses, leading them to increase prices, freeze pay or lay off staff.

Mr Burridge said a stabiliser would be welcome, but urged Government to do more to help alleviate the cost pressures big fuel consuming companies are facing.

"We like the idea of Government

introducing a fuel duty stabiliser, but realistically, all we would like is for duty to be left alone," he said.

"Duty went up in January and is due to go up again in April. They can minimise the impact of fuel prices by not increasing duty."

"The recent increases in price have been driven by world events and speculation on the markets."

"If there are outbreaks of trouble in big fuel producers such as Saudi Arabia or Iran then the sky's the limit in terms of future fuel prices."

# Heavy consumers urged to consider hedge contracts

HEAVY fuel-consuming companies are being urged to review their purchasing strategies after petrol prices topped £1.33 per litre.

Paul Saunders, managing partner at Clydesdale Bank's Tunbridge Wells financial solutions centre, said firms could use new fuel hedge contracts to save money.

Traditionally, these fixed price contracts have only been made available to customers with annual consumption over a high fuel threshold, but Mr Saunders said any company using even 50,000 litres a month should look into hedging.

"Now is a good time for businesses to review their fuel purchasing strategy and budgets, given the day-to-day price changes," he said. "SMEs in particular can take advantage of this solution by committing to hedging smaller quantities of fuel than have traditionally been possible."

"Businesses can take out contracts with a minimum length of six months with a fuel consumption of 50,000 litres per month hedged."

"The advantages for these fuel hedging strategies are the benefits of taking the guess work out of budgeting and relieving worries about possible sharp increases in fuel prices affecting cash flow."

"For businesses where fuel is a significant proportion of costs, any increase in price could have a highly detrimental effect on its profit margin."

The hedged fuel prices relate to the daily rates quoted by the Platt's index, which is a source of benchmark price assessments for



**REVIEW:** Paul Saunders is urging a re-think on fuel purchasing commodities like fuel and metal.

This hedged price is agreed at the start of the partnership between the company and the bank, and will not deviate with any changes in the market price over the term of the contract.

Mr Saunders added: "The reason fuel is such a volatile commodity is due to the exceptional economic circumstances the world finds itself in today."

"The raw material price is dependent on supply as well as the recovery of a number of high consumption countries. The raw material price is set in US dollars, which can add an additional element of volatility as the UK prices in sterling."

"These effects, combined with the restoration of VAT to 20 per cent and increased duty, explains why fuel prices are so high in the UK."

"Ultimately SMEs could stabilise their fuel purchases and be in a more secure position to manage their business."

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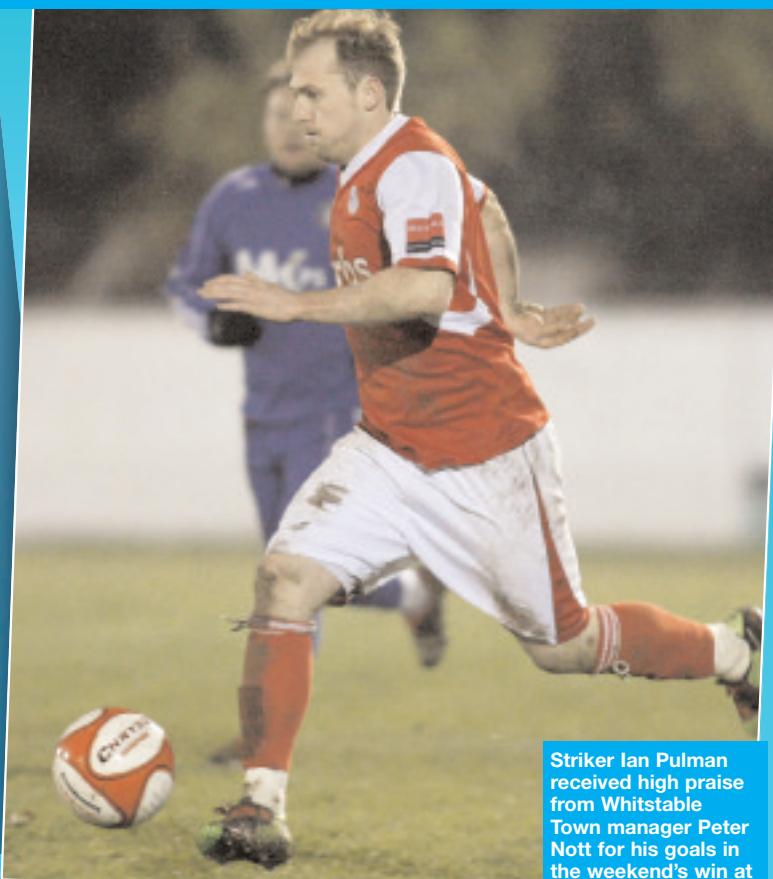


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## Sport



Kristian House looks to build on his win in South Africa at this week's Tour of Normandy



Striker Ian Pulman received high praise from Whitstable Town manager Peter Nott for his goals in the weekend's win at Worthing



Herne Bay kept up the pressure at the top of the Kent League with a win at former tenants Norton Sports



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